

A Bird's Eye View

Matthew 6:25-26 (ESV)

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

Greetings my fellow Podcast Patriots! I'm so thankful you stopped by today for our devotional thoughts on, "A Bird's Eye View."

One of the great challenges for Americans is getting over being consumed by money and things. Do you remember when Bill Clinton was running for President that he made a sign to remind him, "It's the economy, stupid"? Isn't it interesting that year after year the primary concern of Americans is having a robust economy? Some even are considering forms of Socialism and the ungodly ramifications in order to have a form of economic security.

Yet, God repeatedly promises to take care of the people who follow Him as mentioned in the opening passage. He took care of the millions Hebrews for forty years in the wilderness and they never missed a meal! What Americans (and all people) need is not just a healthy economy, we need God in America. When we seek Him, He seeks us.

Jesus uses the birds of the air to illustrate this point. The birds he describes were most likely on a migratory path between Africa and Europe. Israel was a kind of rest stop where the birds could refresh and refuel on their journey. In the winter they headed south, in the summer, they headed north. God provided even for the birds.

At Constitutional Congress in 1787 Benjamin Franklin made an plea to the delegates who were having a hard time agreeing on a Constitution for America. He appealed to them to pray and worship together as they had done during the conflict with England. He began his speech to the delegates with the birds:

**"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth-
-that God Governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? . . ."**

Congress decided to follow Mr. Franklin's advice and headed to church to worship and pray together. It was like a switch was flipped and the delegates almost miraculously came to consensus on the Constitution. Delegates did not equate the Constitution to the same inspiration as scripture, but they felt divine providence with it.

It is funny how much can be accomplished when we aren't concerned about getting credit for it. It's even funnier what can be accomplished when GOD is first and foremost in the center of it. God truly is aware even of the birds of the air and those that fall to the ground. He is certainly aware of every aspect of what is going on with our nation. We rise or fall within His sight.

When those early Americans placed their trust in Him, He granted them independence from Great Britain. In so doing, they acknowledged their dependence on Him. On whom or what are we dependent?

I'm sure you feel it as well. The longer I live, the more I realize that every breath, every heartbeat, every thought is dependent on God who gives life and sustains life for His purposes. We think we are in charge. The truth is, God is. He is Creator and Sustainer. Just like the birds of the air, we need His provisions that come when we seek Him. Let's conclude with this reminder from **Acts 17:24-28** (ESV):

²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for ““In him we live and move and have our being”;

Until next time, Keep The Light Burning!