

Connect Group notes 22 April 2024

Don shared his third message on Sunday in the series called 'Biblical Birdwatching'. He talked about the *sparrow*.

Read Luke 12; 6-7

"What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Not much more than that. Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And he knows the number of hairs on your head! Never fear, you are far more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows"

Don commented that Jesus uses these birds to speak to us about our value in his sight. Sparrows are considered to be common, destructive, dull, and ungifted, so if He cares for them how much more does He care for us?

1. Our value to God is 'unearned'

- Humankind uses many things to try to prove our worth – material things, physical attractiveness, professional pursuits..
- Have we met people who go after these things, or experienced this temptation ourselves?
- Has our experience, either personally or through watching someone else, proven to us the futility of finding our worth in such things?
- What do we think about the fact that our intrinsic value lies in the fact that we are God's creation, made in His image, not based on what we do or achieve?
- Do we have head knowledge of this, but struggle to believe it in our hearts?

2. Our value is 'unloseable' (a Donism)

- Don commented that Genesis 1:26 is the very basis of human rights – the fact we are made in His image

- If we truly start to believe our value is that we are made in the image of God, how might this free us or help us change unhelpful behaviours/thought patterns about ourselves?
- How does this impact our treatment of other people who bear the image of God, particularly people we find hard to love?

'How we treat the image is how we treat God'

3. Our value is universal

Don stated that "the church who does not identify with the marginalised will itself be marginalised"

- What implications does this have for us as the Body of Christ?
- How could we/do we live this out as the church in our sphere of influence at Gateway?