



“Are you not more valuable than they?”

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Smaller than a sparrow, the Carolina Wren spans five inches and weighs less than one ounce – this little bird is as round as it is long. Reddish brown with a buffy orange underbelly and a distinctive white stripe above the eyebrow, along with its sweet soprano song - *tea kettle tea kettle tea kettle dee* - this wren is cuteness overload. When it comes to choosing a place to nest, this species often selects the hanging flowerpot. Every morning for the past two weeks, as I have enjoyed our front porch with my morning coffee, it has been my delight to observe these birds care for their young. Every few minutes both parents dutifully bring insects, caterpillars, nuts, and berries to their nestlings. It reminds me of Jesus’ encouraging words: “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Matthew 6:26.

God wants us to have the faith of the birds of the air – they waste no energy worrying about finding their next meal. In the same way He asks us to place our hands on the plow and not look back. He wants us to seek His righteousness and kingdom – and trust Him for everything else. We cannot combine the love of the world and the love of God – one will always prevail (Matthew 6:24). It is simply not possible to run after material things while living faithful lives in full surrender to the Lord. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

This level of faith is possible. By resting in the character of God one can resist the temptation of despair, doubt, and worry. God is completely true, faithful, and good – He promises to care for the righteous – and He cannot lie. It’s as simple as this: “The Lord is my Shepherd, *I shall not (be in) want*” Psalm 23:1. Like the momma and papa wren, may we know the confidence and peace of trusting the Almighty for all that we need.