

Thursday, December 3, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.
But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.
Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."**

Matthew 10: 29-31

I think that most people would agree that life has felt rather uncertain these days. Would you agree? What if I said that I'm not sure I agree? What I really mean to say is that life has always been uncertain. We just didn't know it. We thought we knew what our lives entailed. We made plans. We plodded along, doing our thing, giving little thought, if any, to the fact that we never knew for sure what the next day would bring. All that has changed is that we now have something to name that has caused us to live with a sense of uncertainty. And we all have that thing in common.

Before COVID, we all knew that life was uncertain. It just wasn't constantly on our mind, partly because it wasn't always in the news. What if every day in the news it was constantly being brought up to us: "Remember you might have heart disease. You don't know if you're headed for a heart attack." Or what if it was constantly being said, "Watch out when you drive today. You might be in a serious accident!" Every day! All day! On every channel! What if there were constant updates on the number of people who died yesterday from heart attacks or from car accidents.

It has always been a possibility that you or I could have one of these things happen to us, or something else. Life has always been uncertain, at least from our perspective. Your life is only CERTAIN from God's perspective. That's what Jesus is saying in our reading for today. Sparrows die every day, but not a single sparrow will die unless God gives the "say-so." God needs to give His permission for a bird to die! Or a deer ... or a snake ... or a dog ... or a person. Nothing has more authority over life and death than God does.

Jesus said, "even the hairs of your head are all numbered." God knows everything about your life and He is in charge. If He knows that you would get into a car accident if you left your house at 7:00 on the dot, He will cause you to run late or leave earlier than you planned if He does not want you to be in that accident. Why do you think so many people find out about a health issue when they go to the hospital for something totally unrelated?

Life is no less certain now, during this COVID pandemic, than it was before. And life will not be any MORE certain after the COVID pandemic. It's always the same, because God is always in charge of our lives. This doesn't mean we shouldn't wear our masks and stay safely distanced from people, just like it doesn't mean you should cross the street without looking both ways. But it means that the certainty of life always lies in the hands of God. That's why we call Him God!

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim