

WVLT
92.1 FM

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW



by Pastor Eileen P. Milazzo

Produced and Written by:

GLENN T. ZELIFF

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

His eye is on the sparrow lyrics (MAYBE PLAY THE SONG FIRST)

Verse 1:

Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart feel lonely
And long for Heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
A constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches over me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

Verse 3:

Whenever I am tempted,
Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him,
From care He sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He cares for me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He cares for me.

Refrain:

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches
(2X)

Verse 2:

"Let not your heart be troubled,"
His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth
But one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

If you've been attending church for any length of time, I'm sure that you're familiar with this lovely song. And, if you've been reading your bible, I'm sure that you have already discovered that the lyricist has based the song on Matthew 6:25-34, which reads:

25 *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"*

26 *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?"*

27 *Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"*

28 *"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin."*

29 *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."*

30 *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?"*

31 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*

32 *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

34 *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

The only thing you can say after reading these very important words, spoken directly to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is "WOW!" "WOW" because of what it says, "WOW" because of all the areas of our lives that it touches, and "WOW" because of everything it implies.

On its surface it states emphatically that **your Heavenly Father:**

1. **Knows what you need:** food, drink, clothing (directly mentioned), eternal life (implied by "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"), and it states "... **your heavenly Father knows** that you need them."
2. **Plans on giving you everything you need:** "... yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?", and, "...will He not much more clothe you—you of little faith?", and, "...all these things will be given to you as well."
3. **Will exceed all of your expectations:** "Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."
4. **Not to worry:** (the whole excerpt)
5. **Regards these concerns as pagan attitudes:** "For the pagans run after all these things".

What every Christian is instructed to do, based directly upon the (red letter) words of Jesus, is to **spend their time seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.** The Father, will take care of feeding you, clothing you, and maintaining your life (which only God can do). Strengthen your faith and trust in the Father, and quit worrying about the things God said He would do. (**When God says "he will" it is a promise. God never goes back on His word.**)

There are few Christians that believe these words. (period) I put the period there because I want to emphasize this short statement. "**There are few Christians that believe these words.**" If you don't believe me, look around you at all the professed Christians, working 8, 9, 10 hours a day at a "job". "The bible says, if you don't work, you

don't eat", is retorted to me almost every time I say that. First of all, that's Old Testament thinking not "Kingdom" thinking. Even some of the "brave" Kingdom minded Christians I know want to "throw out a fleece" as Gideon did. They call it "faith walking". We have Christ, alive, and living in us, with His presence and power available to us. And yet, many believers today still say they use a "fleece" to determine God's will. This is not only an expression of unbelief and doubt, but can sometimes be so far removed from biblical faith that it borders on downright superstition. This may be contrary to what you have believed, or have heard, but Gideon's story proves the point. We don't need to use a "fleece" to determine God's will in the New Testament age. We have the Holy Spirit.

"I've put out fleeces to the Lord many times and He has often made His will clear to me in that way," people remark. "Good, I believe you," I reply. "That just shows that God is a merciful and gracious God, and that He worked in spite of your expression of 'faith,' as you have understood it in the past. It's very clear in the passage about Gideon that when he put out a fleece, **it wasn't faith that caused him to do it. It was doubt.**" "So are you saying I shouldn't do that anymore?" they ask. "What I'm saying is that you have the Holy Spirit living inside you. It isn't necessary for you to look for some sort of external sign to know God's will when, all the while, the eternal Spirit of God is living in you and is ready and able to make God's will known to you."

While God is amazingly patient and merciful to us in our weakness and ignorance, we need to move beyond this kindergarten method of trying to determine His will. In Christ, God has lifted us to possibilities unimaginably greater! We have no valid excuses. We have the Holy Spirit living inside of us! So why don't we learn to trust God instead of trusting in a "fleece"? We have an advantage Old Testament believers couldn't imagine. According to 1 Corinthians 2:16, "we have the mind of Christ"! As God's child, you have divine ability to see life through the eyes of faith, allowing Christ to see and live and work and love through you. You are a conduit of His life into this world. **The One who controls it all, lives in and through you.** Let that be a truth that stirs your faith.

Don't worry about missing God's will. Go ahead and act in faith, believing that He wants you to grow in this area. The Apostle Paul once said, "When I was child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11). There's nothing wrong with being a child, but the idea of remaining a child is abnormal. The time has come to act in maturity in regard to **discovering and doing God's will in your life.** If you'll step out in faith, you'll see that He will faithfully guide you and see to it that you reach the destination **He has in mind for you.**

Trusting in His indwelling Spirit is much better than putting out shallow fleeces that can often be misinterpreted. You are God's child. He loves you and wants to speak to you and teach you to follow His leadership in a spiritually mature way. He wants you to enjoy the benefits of the New Covenant, through which He has promised to never leave or forsake you but to lead you into all truth, and to supply all your needs according to His riches and glory through Christ

Jesus. It's time to see yourself as His child and rise above the kindergarten level of Old Testament living. A new day has come. It's a day when Christ lives inside you and guides you into the Father's perfect will for your life.

(End of Part 1)

Part II – HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Last week we had just “scratched the surface” in our discussion of Matthew 6:25-34, which I'll again recite to you in just a few moments. But first I want to “bring you up to speed”. We mentioned that the Heavenly Father: Knows what you need, plans on giving you everything you need, will exceed all of your expectations, doesn't want you to worry, and that He regards worrying about where you're going to get food, drink, clothing and the length of your life, as pagan attitudes. We also mentioned that God wants us to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, not to spend most of our time working and sleeping, which leaves a short amount of time for Godly endeavors. The average “worker” in this country, gets up at 6:30 AM. Gets groomed and dressed for work, and has something to eat for breakfast, then leaves for work at 7:45 or 8:00 AM. He commutes to work for 45 minutes to an hour (depends upon the traffic congestion). Works from 9:00 AM to 5:00 or 6:00 PM. Then has a 45 minute to an hour commute home. At 7:00 PM he enters his home. He has something to eat for dinner and by 8:00 PM he has free time. If he wants the advised 8 hours of sleep he has to go to bed at 10:30 – 11:00PM. And then it all starts over again for the ensuing day or days. Some folk work 5 days like this, some work 6. The food shopping, laundry, bible studies, have to fit into this schedule or they're attended to on the days off. There is precious time to SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, in a lifestyle such as the majority of Christians follow in this country, and God knows it. His answer is found in Matthew 6:25-34, which reads:

25 *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”*

26 *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?*

27 *Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

28 *“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.*

29 *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*

30 *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?*

31 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*

32 *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

34 *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

God keeps His eye on everything. Man keeps his "I" in everything. This is the foremost reason why believers are still worrying about rent, food and clothing, and bills, and about their health. They are still maintaining their **position as lord of their lives**, while at the same time, they profess that Jesus is Lord. But they are positioned as the supplier of housing, as the provider of food and clothing, as the provider of the money to pay bills. And they worry about the things out of their control, like their health and the health of their family members. Few of them believe that **God will supply** all of their needs. So, they make the decisions that they think will be most advantageous to achieve their goal of supplying their needs, and God waits patiently for them to come to Him. And thus, "the American Dream" was built. Is it your "dream" to work the lion's share of every day to just barely keep up with the rising cost of living? Is it your "dream" to be subject to your "boss" and "governmental bureaucrats" that teach you day after day, that they have no concern about your welfare? Open your eyes, that is exactly what you've chosen. Americans have a hard time with the concept of Kings and Lords. They equate those things with dictators and tyrants. Americans strive for the independence heralded in our founding documents. Few attain it. It is the general rule that a small percentage of our citizenship get richer, while the far larger percentage of the population get poorer. At the same time, the average American lives better than most of the people of the world. So we stick with the program that has been the best the "world" has seen. (At least in modern times)

I remember when I was a "workaholic" before I was saved. I worked seven days a week from early morning until 10 or 11 at night. I made money, but at what cost? I also remember travelling around my county looking for houses to buy. I had on my \$600 Nino Cerrucci, 3 piece suit, my \$30 designer tie, and my \$200 bali shoes. I was in my brand new Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham sedan. I had 5 or 6 hundred in cash in my pocket, the gas tank was full, and I was out looking for real estate. I was in an area of town where the properties were not real expensive, and the residents were for the most part "blue collar" workers. That's when I spotted my quarry. An elevated "L-shaped" ranch style home with a large attached deck on the front, sitting on a nice sized piece of land. The house needed to be painted, the roof was missing shingles, the lawn needed cutting and the yard was a mess. Up on that deck was a whole lot of people having a bar-b-q; drinkin' beer and eatin' ribs, smokin' and jokin', generally having a good time together. And it occurred to me, "When was the last time I was at a bar b-q?" "It had to be, what 7 or 8 years...maybe 10", I thought to myself. I went out for

luncheons and dinner almost every day, but those luncheons and dinners were almost exclusively with business acquaintances; definitely not with ... "friends". And the point of those luncheons and dinners was not to have ... "fun". And, right there and then, I felt empty. Where were **my** friends? I used to have some? I used to have "good times". Now I had **work!** As much as I wanted. But that's all I had. Well, **work** and **things**, ...possessions. I can tell you that was day when I had a "Solomon" moment, as the old Beatle's song tells you, "money can't buy you love". That's when I learned about the "quicksand" in the "American Dream". You only have 24 hours in a day; and I needed something like 30 to get everything done. So 5 days a week became 6 days a week. Then 6 days a week became 7 days a week. Then? What was to come next? The "Big Bang"? All I can tell you is this, I was lonely. I knew that I'd rather be up on that deck, then doing what I was doing. Money lost its charm with me, and I determined right then that "this is not for me". I gave up that dream. But it wasn't my dream anyway, it was the one I was taught to "embrace". The dreams I have today, are the ones given to me by the Holy Spirit. I do not put up my treasures where thieves can steal them or where they will rust and corrode.

One of those recent "dreams" I received from the Holy Ghost went like this: In one of the Indiana Jones movies they were on a quest for the "Holy Grail". When they got to the chamber that contained the "Last Supper Cup", it was hidden on a shelf with something like fifty other cups. The "bad guys" made it into the chamber at the same time Indiana Jones got there. But they were going to get to the cup first and then escape with the invaluable relic. The head bad guy determined that the "King of Kings" would have the most spectacular cup of all, so he selected the obviously, most beautiful chalice in the chamber, and he grabbed it. Well, e-r-r-r-r wrong one! And he melted. His skin started stretching and then turned to ooze...he melted. The woman with him grabbed the one she had her eye on; e-r-r-r-r wrong one. Melt down number 2! Now Indiana Jones had to chose. He reasoned that Jesus was a carpenter, a plain man, and that His cup would be plain; so he picked up the obviously plain cup (that didn't look like it was worth much). Tah dah, he made the right choice. So that was the end of the "movie clip" but not the teaching. The Holy Ghost explained to me that you need a cup to hold liquids. You don't need an expensive golden chalice with gemstones all over it to do the job, just a cup that works. The expensive one is made that way because of "ego", "My cup's better then your cup"..or "I can afford the best". Ego equals "I". God views the ego as a problem. It's bad thinking. The important thing for a cup to do is hold the liquid. More then that represents ulterior motives. Consider this, which cup would be easier to clean? The answer is the plain cup. When you clean the ornate cup, you have to clean around all those bezels and take care not to dislodge a gem. How much of our thinking is motivated by the "ego", which manifests itself as competition. How many of us want to be the best, the smartest, the fastest, the richest. Doesn't that remind you of the Tower of Babel?: The biggest, highest, the best of all times. You know in architecture or machine design "form **follows** function". That means it is the first and foremost function of a design to do the job for which it is being designed. What is the function for which you were designed? If you don't know the

answer to that question, how can you succeed at “fulfilling” your purpose in life. You can think up a “purpose” but if it not the one the Creator designed you for you’ll have an unfulfilled life!

Unbelievers don’t know what they’re missing. Believers don’t know what they’re supposed to do, and they miss out. If you spend your entire day doing the “things of the Lord”, you’ll be surprised at just how busy you get. You get so busy that you couldn’t possibly do the work He has you doing and run around trying to supply even your basic needs. God does that. He supplies every thing you need, and more. I have more “exhaustable income” now that I work full time for God than I did when I worked for “Big Business”. “Where does the money come from, donations?” Here’s a BIG SURPRISE for you; I get no donations! Since I get no donations, I can’t live on them, can I? The answer is...from whatever sources God determines. It’s a hard thing for modern day believers to believe that God supplies every thing they need. “I have a family. I can’t act that irresponsibly!”, they say. You also have a God. **You** are not in control, He is. You are a true joint heir and family member in Jesus Christ’s family, when you do the will of the Father. He makes all the “calls”, and you, as a “good son or daughter” follow His instructions. When it’s time to eat, the food’s there. When you need new clothes, he buys them for you. When you need shelter, he shelters you. (Just like in days gone by when the Patriarchal Father was the center of a family of married sons and daughters and their sons and daughters...and maybe even their sons and daughters. They all worked together for the good of “the family”. But the Patriarchal Father made all the decisions. The “siblings” were alright with that, because they knew that their father loved them, even more then he loved himself. He upheld the “family” with his every effort and all of his heart. They found out, that in the long run, they were taken care of very well.) Jesus called himself “the Son of God” when He was referring to Kingdom (spiritual) things. He called himself “the Son of Man” when He was referring to His life here on earth; filled with all the pains and sufferings that came with it. Now we are asked, which title would you like “Son of God” or “Son of Man”? How you live tells everyone which selection you made.