

THE MASTER'S CLASS ON PIONEERING #9 "More Than Sparrows"

Matt 10:27-32

Sometimes pioneers wrestle with their sense of worth/value to the KOG – so Jesus speaks about the value of the pioneer/minister

I. DIMINISHED VALUE

A. It's Possible to have a wrong view of our worth to the kingdom

1. See our accomplishments as small: *I'm not adding anything significant to the kingdom: My 'dirty dozen' converts*
2. See our ability as small:
 - a. *Who am I kidding, in this big city?*
 - b. *Compare ourselves to mega churches, or successful brethren*
3. So we come to the conclusion that we actually have little value:
 - a. Like a sparrow – here today, gone tomorrow, and nobody will miss it
 1. This becomes very personal: Not 'my ministry' is small/worthless, but "I am worthless!"

B. But this is a strategy of the enemy

1. *Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
 - a. The enemy is a master at warping our perspective
 1. Of ourselves, the enemy's power, and God's care for us
 - b. When people backslide: He tells you it's all your fault;
 - c. When people make poor decisions: It's your bad preaching
 1. *Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.*
 - a. Even when Joshua in presence of God, there is the enemy to hurl accusations against him

C. This can cause us to make poor decisions: Jesus warning of this b/c it can affect their ministry

1. **Some quit:** *When we come/conclusion that we are worthless, of no value to kingdom, why keep preaching?*
 - a. *Ps called: "I'm done, coming home today (Sunday!)" Why? Because these people need a pastor who can help them!*
2. **Some change their theology:**
 - a. Develop a theology of defeat (devil is too big) or of suffering (God is punishing me)
 1. *All of the times we were taught 'this is not acceptable' – now we accept everything, just hoping to survive*

II. THE GOD WHO PAYS ATTENTION

A. Our scrip says God's pays attention to pioneers

1. *Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.*
2. **God sees your labor – not just your successes:**
 - a. *Pioneers often call when things are well, go quiet when things are down – think pastor only wants to hear successes*
 - b. God (and your pastor) are pleased with your faithfulness to labor
 1. Not ONLY the numbers you are posting
3. **God sees your difficulty:** *V29 'fall to the ground'* God is fully aware of the struggle of ministry
 - a. Can come to wrong conclusion that nobody understands what you're going through: But God does!
 1. *V29 'apart from Your Father's will'* God is able to use our difficulty and struggle for our benefit, for other people
4. **God sees things even you don't:** *V30 even the hairs of your head are numbered*
 - a. God is paying attention to details that: 1. You aren't aware of 2. You don't think are important 3. Are beyond your control!
 - b. When we feel we have little value/worth:
 1. Jesus says you are so valuable God is keeping inventory of your individual hairs!

III. MORE THAN SPARROWS

A. Jesus says pioneers have great value *Matthew 10:31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

1. *The disciples were the first 'sent ones' – they were LIT pioneering the entire church age – important!*
2. **TRUTH:** All kingdom growth comes via pioneers – there is no other way
 - a. A healthy 'mother church' exists only for one purpose: To send pioneers
 1. *Conference centers, even entire fellowship organized around one simple goal: Plant churches!*
 - b. SO need to see the incredible value/dignity of the pioneer – without pioneers there is no fellowship
 1. That is why the enemy attacks them so strongly – attacks your sense of value: Because it is great!

B. Jesus says that He Himself speaks on behalf of the pioneer

1. *v32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.*
 - a. *Confess = 'confess allegiance' or 'attest to ones character'*
2. **Jesus is saying:** I will make it a point to say good things about pioneers before God the Father
 - a. When you are struggling with your value/kingdom – remember that!