



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? 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 6:25,26

The question that i would like us to launch is: How can we enter into this new year of 2024 and not be afraid?

How do we have faith and not fear?

In Matthew, chapter 6, Christ gives us a few reasons not to worry and I would like to point out below one of those reasons:

PRINCIPLE - Worry is unnecessary because of Your Father

v. 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?

” Jesus tells us to look at the birds and remember the sovereign, faithful, and generous ways God cares for his creation.

Christ is obviously encouraging laziness here, because as we all know, laziness is a sin. He is condemning our thinking or acting as if our life is entirely in our hands. Our survival depends on your work. Our life is in the hands of God. Verse 26 says, *“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your*

heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Of course you are. You are so valuable that God sent his only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sins. Romans 8:32 says: *"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"*

If He's made you His own, if He's brought you into His Kingdom, if He has provided for all your spiritual needs, if He's concerned that you live to His Glory, don't you think He'll provide the necessary Physical provisions?

I believe that the idea here is this: child of god!!! – rest in god's providence!!! – do some bird watching when you have the tendency to get worried Go look at the birds.....

What we have here is an argument from the lesser to the greater

GOD FEEDS THE BIRDS – HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

You have a father in heaven who cares for you, and if he providentially takes care of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, he will take care of you..... You can rest in Him, child of God!

When the stock market crashed in 1929, J.C. Penny lost almost all of his material assets. He became physically ill and deeply depressed. As a result, he had to be hospitalized. One night, Penny thought he was dying. When he woke up, he realized he was still alive. As he walked down the hospital corridor that day, he heard singing coming from the hospital chapel. The song was God Will Take Care of You. These words kindled a spark in his heart. He went into the chapel where the prayers and reading of Scripture directed his focus from his problems to God who cared about him and was able to deliver him from his difficult circumstances. This was the turning point for J.C. Penny. He made a complete recovery from his illness and went on to build one of the most successful retail businesses in the United States.

I'll leave you for now with the words of the beautiful song, "God will take care of you" -

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you!
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you!

God will take care of you,
Through every day o'er all the way;
He will take care of you;
God will take care of you!

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you!
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you!

All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you!
Trust Him, and you will be satisfied,
God will take care of you!