

Letter from Israel

"You are worth so much more than sparrows" (Matthew 10: 29-31)

It was there so suddenly....like a broken shoe lace. On the sidewalk as Barbara and I strode to breakfast (6:45 am). It was a single little brown bird....a sparrow.

To my left rising like a mountain, w a bluff that is art of the Golan Heights. To the right (I have not yet mastered compass points here) is the lapping water of the Sea of Galilee. We are in the midst of the galilee area where so much of Jesus ministry took place.

I spotted the sparrow. It was a moment in which God's loving gad was upon me. "Remember the sparrows." So common. So small. Jesus also said, "the very hairs of your head are numbered."

That is important to me. I have a lot fewer of them than I did in 1976 when I became the minister to St. Andrew's, New Liskeard, Ontario. My hair was dark brown back then and so was my beard. Now there is a lot less hair on the crown of my head. A mystery to me...my beard has remained thick although it is the colour of winter's snow.

The point is that for the last 35 years I have been aware of my thinning head of hair, a reminder that the clock is ticking away. I have fewer days and hours and even seconds left in life here on earth.

The beautiful thing about that is that God's eye is always on me regardless of my age. He watches over me...over every detail of my life. Every moment and every incident happens as it should. "His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me," says the gospel song.

Praise God! That little visitor who graced my steps on the way to breakfast, is a reminder. I am not alone on this journey. And even more importantly life is not random. I am called to remember something I am tempted to forget. "You are worth so much more than sparrows." Precious words spoken by Jesus right here in Galilee

I watched the sun disappear behind the hills. It is Friday, and that means it is the beginning of Sabbath.....Shabbatt. We say Shabbatt Shalom. May we all have a blessed peace filled Shabbatt.

Morley Mitchell
Sent in the love of Jesus.