

WEEK ELEVEN
DAY TWO

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

Psalm 84:3

Even the sparrow	צִפּוֹר <i>tsippowr</i> גַּם <i>gam</i>	– a little bird (as hopping, sparrow) – also, even
finds	מָצָא <i>matsa'</i>	– to attain, find or acquire
a home,	בַּיִת <i>bayith</i>	– a house
and the swallow	דְּרוֹר <i>děrowr</i>	– applied to a bird, the swift, swallow
a nest	קֶן <i>qen</i>	– a nest (as fixed)
for herself, where	אֲשֶׁר <i>'asher</i>	– who, which, what, that, (often accompanied by the personal pronoun)
she may lay	שִׁית <i>shiyth</i>	– to place, lay (up), set
her young,	אֶפְרוֹחַ <i>'ephroach</i>	– (in the sense of bursting the shell), young (one).
at your altars	מִזְבֵּחַ <i>mizbeach</i>	– an altar
O Lord	יְהוָה <i>Yěhovah</i>	– the self-Existent or Eternal; Jewish national name of God —Jehovah, the Lord
of hosts	צְבָא <i>tsaba'</i>	– a mass of persons, especially organized for war; an army, company, host, soldiers
my King	מֶלֶךְ <i>melek</i>	– a king, royal
and my God.	אֱלֹהִים <i>'elohiyim</i>	– (plural) can mean rulers, judges; in this case the supreme God

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For a long time, I felt like a sparrow in a gilded cage, being able to see the freedom Christ gives but unable to experience it for myself. I flitted about, bumping into the bars, yearning for the great, wide world my avian fellows were so thoroughly enjoying. But when the Lord lifted the latch and swung the door open, I was overcome with fear.

Suddenly the world looked too great, too wide, and altogether too dangerous. What if a storm blew in, bringing hail with it? What if a hawk swooped down out of nowhere to carry me to my doom? Suddenly the prison I had hated didn't seem so terrible. I mean, after all, it kept me safe, right? And, to top it all off, I had some level of control over what happened to me. Thanks, Lord, but no freedom for me today.

But then I heard Him laugh and whisper, "No, Beloved, I have called you to freedom. So, please, when you're ready, jump. Let go of the illusion of control, and trust Me to take care of you. For your soul is, and always will be, eternally safe with Me."

Maybe God's calling you to take that leap out of the cage and onto the wind. Maybe you're frightened of your future and unsure which way to turn. Trusting Him to provide seems so pie-in-the-sky, so impractical, so...frightening.

My dear sisters, I speak to you now from the hollow of our Father's hand, speaking the truth that we know but so often fail to believe, a truth that oozes from every word in this verse: no matter where you are blown, no matter what predator stalks you in the shadows, no matter what natural disaster falls upon you, you have a home that can never be taken from you. It's not wealth; it's not relationships; it's not political parties; it's not family or hobbies. It is your place in the presence of Almighty God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, your place as the apple of His loving eye. It is your identity as His daughter, a name He gave in the face of all of your fears, all your failures, all of your sins over your entire finite lifetime. So, hold on and hold out, my fellow buffeted birds, and direct your hearts to altars of the Lord of Hosts, our King and our God.

~ Joanna Toso

WEEK ELEVEN
DAY FOUR

**Even the sparrow finds a home,
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Spurgeon wrote a sermon on this verse in 1907: **THE SPARROW AND THE SWALLOW.**

Sparrows were not only very insignificant and very needy; they were uninvited guests. Yet they were not driven away but found a comfortable, suitable, permanent home when they came to the house of the Lord—do you relate?

And when we find, in the Lord Jesus Christ, a house for our souls, we find safety in Him, even as the sparrow found safety in her “house.” When the stormy wind blew all around her, the sparrow felt safe in her house hard by the altar in God’s ancient Tabernacle. And when the storm of conscience beats upon us, we feel safe in our hiding place in the altar where Jesus suffered for us! And when the last dreadful storm of Divine Judgment shall come, we shall be safe beneath the shelter of the Atonement that He offered upon Calvary. He that believes in Jesus is safe forever! When the earth and all its works are burned up, and the heavens pass away with a great noise, no hurt shall come to the man to whom Jesus is “a hiding place from the wind and a shelter from the tempest.”

Next to safety, we find rest in Christ. The soul that is out of Christ knows not what true rest is, but, “we who have believed do enter into His rest.” A spiritual abode. We live in Christ. We have heard our Master’s blessed command, “Abide in Me,” and we desire to dwell there, hard by the pierced heart of Jesus.

And in that nest, close to the dwelling of God, we have our young, and we trust they will be like the swallows in this respect, that they will be pretty sure to return to the nest even if they leave it for a while. Though the swallows may fly over the deep blue sea to the lands that are far away, yet when the next season comes, they find their way back again to the old nest and home. So, though some of our sons and daughters may grow up and leave the House of God for a while, they cannot altogether forget it.

The little sparrow, when it reaches its home, is perfectly content. Its day’s work is over, its day’s needs are supplied, and it chirps its evening song of joy. So, when we make our abode in Christ, our soul is filled with delight! We have a bliss that is not only full to the brim, but it even overflows. Truly happy are those who are Christ’s servants; thrice happy are they who are looking alone to His Cross for their salvation!

But the point upon which David seemed to lay the greatest emphasis was that the sparrow’s home was near to God’s earthly dwelling place, and, oh, when we abide in

Christ, how near we are to God!

Prayer: Thank you, Father, for putting these thoughts in the mind of Charles Spurgeon for us today, and thank you that you do not turn away the insignificant, needy, uninvited guests but welcome them to come and make a home close to you in Christ Jesus.

~ Jeanine Dungan

WEEK ELEVEN
DAY FIVE

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“The sparrows were not only very insignificant, they were also very needy. They needed a house, they needed a place of shelter—and they found it at God’s altar. How needy, also, are we! Though we are insignificant, our needs are anything but insignificant. How much we need! Who can tell what we do not need? Were it not for God’s super abounding mercy, we would all be in Hell. Were it not for His unspeakable goodness, we would, this day, have no hope of Grace, no prospect of pardon, no assurance of a holy, happy hereafter in Heaven. Our needs are countless—every moment brings a fresh one—and all the supplies of the past and the present are not sufficient to meet the voracious demands that will come upon us in the future. The sparrow, needy creature that she was, having nothing to bring to God’s House, found there a house freely given to her and, you needy souls, the infinite supply of Divine Mercy in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, is freely given to you! You need not bring anything with you when you come to Christ, only come and trust Him, and all your needs shall be supplied. Whatever your souls can need to bear them safely through the troubles of earth—and bring them to the bliss of Heaven—you shall have it freely given to you if you do but come flying with the wings of faith to find a house and a home in Jesus Christ. At the great altar where Christ was offered as the one Sacrifice for sin forever, the most needy soul that ever lived on the face of the earth will find a hearty welcome! These sparrows were uninvited guests, yet they found a house and took possession of it. And they were never blamed for doing so. But in this verse David seems to commend them—he certainly envied them. But, my dear Hearers, you who have never come to the Lord Jesus Christ are not uninvited guests. The Gospel invitation rings through this building every Sabbath day—

‘Come and welcome,
Come to Jesus, Sinner, come!’”

- Charles Spurgeon, The Sparrow and The Swallow

We pray you accept “the infinite supply of Divine Mercy in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ” if you have not done so! If you have, give thanks that all your needs are supplied!

~Trish Bruce

