

Birds at Breakfast

Our garden is not big – space for a tree, a pile of old logs, a low wall of abandoned stones, a patch of grass, an assortment of shrubs, bulbs and ferns, and random wild-seeded poppies and other ‘weeds’.

We cut the grass and occasionally pull stuff out and chop things back. Compared with RHS Chelsea – what it lacks in horticultural wizardry and design, it makes up for in being eco-friendly and welcoming to birds, butterflies, bugs and mini-beasts.



Breakfast time is when a waterfall of little birds descends from the trees to the ground for an early bath in the rusty wok before feasting on worms, insects and berries. Multi-coloured finches, rosy robins, perky wrens and brown sparrows – you name them they’re there before the big birds land.

Jesus was fond of sparrows. Luke and Matthew both report Jesus’ story...

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:29,31

⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Luke 6-7

Sparrows had cash value – the sacrifice offering of the poor, who couldn’t afford pigeons, a lamb or an ox. Matthew advertises two for a penny and Luke has located a ‘buy 4 get one free’ deal. Whatever the going rate, sparrows were the bare minimum in offerings – almost worthless. Jesus upgrades them in his story. To God they are priceless – not one is forgotten or uncared for. So too is God’s care for us. Jesus values those who feel they have little to offer. He assures us all that we are worth more than many sparrows – so much more than we can know.

So, we are grateful for the little birds in our garden, especially the brown sparrows with no flashy statement plumage. They remind us of our worth, even when we feel we are insignificant in the grand scheme of things.

Some may remember a song called ‘More than many sparrows’ by Andy Severyn, which we choreographed as a dance in 1990. It has travelled the globe with Jesus’ message and touched many people of all ages. You can still hear it on U-tube.