

**Sunday Evening, June 12 - Krista Massingill**  
**"I SING BECAUSE I'M HAPPY"**

Civilla D. Martin wrote "His Eye is on the Sparrow" in 1904 while she was sitting with a lady who was bedridden. Martin asked this lady if she ever got discouraged, and the lady talked about how God cares for the sparrow. It wasn't long before this beloved song was on paper. This song is embedded in our anthem, "I Sing Because I'm Happy". In Matthew and Luke we read that God numbers the sparrows so he surely cares for us. Thinking of a bird during hard times may not be our first thought, but the hidden meaning is that if God cares for something as insignificant as a bird, then how much more He cares for us. The anthem's words also say we're free! Only we who are saved because of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross can truly sing about happiness and freedom. Isaiah 61:1 says:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
Because the Lord anointed me  
To proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim freedom for the captives  
And release from darkness for the prisoners.

Do you live in that kind of freedom – the kind that cancels all worry and proclaims the Good News to others? Christ wants us to experience that kind of freedom in our lives so that we are left with His peace. Take a few moments now to meditate on this verse and trace God's hand in your life, the times prayers were answered, the times you knew with all of your being that God was with you. God does not change! Living with that knowledge is happiness and freedom! Now, say a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.