

Origin Of Hymns
for
Zion's July 2010 Tidings

*
His Eye Is On The Sparrow
Matthew 10:29-31
text
Civilla Durfee Holden

Civilla Durfee Holden migrated with her family from Canada to the US in the 1860s. After teaching music for a number of years Civilla and Walter Stillman Martin were brought together through their mutual attraction to music. He would compose, she would provide the lyric. Walter would go on to become a Baptist minister. Their hymns were usually inspired by the Lord's working in their lives, at different points in time. One such instance found them in Elmira, New York visiting with an extraordinary couple. Mrs Doolittle had not been able to rise from her bed in some 20 years, while Mr Doolittle attended to his wife and conducted business from his wheelchair. And yet their trust in the lord was extraordinary. It was something that Mrs. Doolittle said, a paraphrase of the words of Jesus, which produced their happy spirit, and inspired Civilla to write a poem, on that spring day in 1905. Enter Charles Hutchinson Gabriel, a famous composer of the day. It would be his task to write music as accompaniment for Civilla's lyric. Matthew chapter 10, verse 29 was the source of Mrs Doolittle's statement of faith and the resulting hymn. "His Eye Is On The Sparrow."

Verse 1

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain

I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free
For His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me.

Verse 2

"Let not your heart be troubled, His tender word I hear
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain repeat

Verse 3

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain repeat

Sunday mornings its Origin of Hymns at 6:15, and 9:35.
And The Lutheran Hour at 6:30 am, on 1490 KXRA