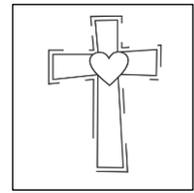


Perley Lutheran Parish
June 21st
Lectionary 12



Welcome and Announcements

- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm – Where's Michele is going well – don't forget to send in your guesses on where she is at – perleyparish@gmail.com or 218-861-6541 or text/call Michele at 701-261-0998
mjenson001@luthersem.edu
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Monday, June 22nd 11-1 at Kirkebo for CFAP food distribution – contact Pastor Michele if you can help
- Continue to monitor the COVID crisis and watch for implementation of our Re-Opening Plan
- Continue to send in your offerings
- Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out
- Invite friends to watch!

Confession and Forgiveness:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin

Reconciling God,

We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness in life. Amen

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through +Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 69:7-18 (Read Responsively)

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that shame has covered my face. **I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children.** It is zeal for your house that has consumed me; the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. **When I humbled my soul with fasting, they insulted me for doing so.** When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. **I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.** But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. With your faithful help **rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.** Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the Pit close its mouth over me. **Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.** Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress—make haste to answer me. **Draw near to me, redeem me, set me free because of my enemies.**

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-13

O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:24-39, **Glory to you O Lord**

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

What are some hobbies that people enjoy? (Allow time for children to respond.)

Reading, knitting, and photography are popular hobbies. Some people like to build things like model cars or airplanes. Others may enjoy outdoor activities like fishing or hiking. Do you have a hobby? What's your hobby? (Allow time for children to respond.)

Do you think God has a hobby? OK, I know the Bible doesn't tell us that God has a hobby, but if He did, do you know what I think it might be? Bird watching! If I use my imagination, I can see God sitting in heaven with a pair of binoculars. (Look through the binoculars.) Perhaps He has a book with pictures of all the beautiful birds that He has created and He is trying to see how many of them he can find with His binoculars. If I really stretch my imagination, I can even hear Him saying, "There's a

Bluebird, and a Cardinal. Oh look, there's an Eagle, a Meadowlark, and a Sparrow." A Sparrow? Of course He would see a Sparrow, there are millions of them. You've seen them -- common, ordinary, brown Sparrows -- but God must have loved them, because He made so many of them.

What birds do you see around the room? (Allow kids to find the birds and say what's unique about each bird.)

One day Jesus was teaching His disciples that they should not be afraid. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid when people threaten you. Two sparrows are sold for a penny, but not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your Father knowing it. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows."

A sparrow seems like a common bird. It has been said, "God must have loved the common people, because He made so many of them." I don't think that God sees us as common or ordinary. If He did, He would not love us in such an uncommon and extraordinary way! The Bible says, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." We are more precious to Him than a whole flock of sparrows -- and we know how much He loves the sparrow.

Dear God, we know that we are precious in Your sight. Thank You for loving us with such an uncommon and extraordinary love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

This morning's passage – the last portion especially – is always one of those that are sometimes hard to swallow as word's and messages that Jesus gives us. One would never expect something like "I did not come to bring Peace but a sword" to be something that our Lord is preaching, right?? So I'd like to get a little creative in how we share this morning's message.

I'm going to spend a minute here testing your memory. When you think about advertising – companies spend millions and millions to get their product or message out to us. Think about what it costs companies for just 30 or 60 seconds of air time during the Super Bowl each year – it's ridiculous isn't it. Companies believe that the proper advertisement can do AT LEAST four things for them: it raises awareness for them, it changes perception of their product or service, it takes and makes and advantage of ones state of mind regarding their item and finally it can show authority – if you can AFFORD a commercial during an important time (like during the Super Bowl or during the 6 o'clock news etc....) you must be doing well and therefore can be trusted.

I myself thinks that those commercials first and foremost raise awareness – so much so that if I mention a few slogans from items (some all the way back to the 50's) you can mention what product was being advertised.

Here we go:

“You deserve a break today” at McDonald’s

“Good to the last drop” Maxwell House coffee

“Have it your way” at Burger King

“Mmmmm Mmmmm good” with Campbell Soup

“Don’t squeeze the.....” Charmin

“Snap, Crackle, Pop” of Rice Krispies

“Ring around the collar” goes away with Wisk Detergent

“Breakfast of Champions” of Wheaties

“Takes a licking and keeps on ticking” with Timex watches

“Melts in your mouth, not in your hands” of M & M’s

“Can you hear me now” of Verizon

“A little dab’ll do ya” of Brylcreem

The list goes on and on – we remember these companies and products because they gave us a jingle or tag line that we not only heard over and over but it stuck in our minds. Some stuck because they were annoyingly repetitive, some because they were fun and silly and some because the products did just what they said and gave us a reason to support them and trust them. Some of them for over 50 years now! Yes, you can still buy Brylcreem!

I took this idea – this concept of advertising and promotion and looked at our Gospel through that lens. How would Jesus work and words look in the light of an advertisement or campaign. I even decided to look at in regards to how it would look or be received if Jesus were doing it today – right now in THIS world. What is Jesus were here now – had come now to walk among us and was attempting to minister to us today? What would and could his slogan or catch phrase consist of? Could he find ways to raise awareness, change our perceptions, promote authority and take advantage of our state of mind like businesses attempt to do when they advertise to the masses? Would we be accepting and satisfied with what he was saying?

Think about it – we recently have an opportunity to watch Jesus for the very first time and find yourself checking out and following his advertising campaign. You have watched and followed as he teaches, heals and encourages others. You have seen him promote love and compassion and mercy to others. He has indeed raised awareness through all of his actions and because of that he has also changed your perception. We watch as our world fights wars, and pandemics, and poverty, and racial unrest, and evil, and violence and we all find ourselves wanting to call that number on the screen or email that address and ask for Jesus to come and take care of things. We want Jesus to come during those times because Jesus represents the peace that we are longing for. With all of the turmoil and all of the opinions, with all of the changes and politics and unrest, Peace it truly what we all need.

We all need and want that peace so would most likely find ourselves calling that number, making that payment for Jesus and shipping handling and wait patiently 7-10 business day for him to arrive.

Then the day arrives and as Jesus enters our homes we find that he is indeed everything that he has advertised – he teaches us all the true meaning of being his disciples and reminds us that he know every single hair on our head and that we are all loved and known by God. You can't help but think to yourself – this Jesus is everything he said he would be – the advertising was right on and we are truly being blessed with that peace that we long for. And then, and then as if Jesus is reading your mind he says, “ do not think I came to you – to this world and place on Earth to bring peace, because I actually came to bring a sword”. What??? He came to set a man against his father and a daughter against her mother?? How can this be??

Yes, he gives us a bit of an explanation but the only things that really resonates in our hearts and minds is “I didn't come to bring peace but a sword!” But wait, I watched your advertising, I trusted all that you said and all that you were preaching and I believed YOU were bringing peace, you say. So how can you possibly say you didn't come to bring peace when clearly you DID say “peace be with you, peace I give to you?”

Well, like any other advertising campaign – now comes the moment of truth – do we believe HIM? Does HE have integrity in our eyes? Think about it – we deal with this question or dilemma often times in our life – do we doubt, do we believe, do we trust? What we need to really understand in this passage is the purpose of the SWORD. The sword is used as a symbol of division. We are divided in our lives in so many ways. We are divided in good and bad, in shame for sins and in newness of the Spirit, in the choices we make and the actions we do or do not complete. Let's be honest, it would be so much easier – this life of ours – if we didn't have to deal with tough decisions, caring about people other than ourselves, worrying about worshipping and praising God, letting others do all the work. It's that sword – that division – that can cause us to be divided and give in to the temptations of sin and laziness when it comes to being a Christian.

As children of God, we need to remember that the sword that Jesus brings to us is not a sword that is brought for division but a sword that is brought to us to remind us that there will be things that will try to separate – divide us – from the love of God. This will continue – day in and day out – as long as we live in our sinful and human form. However, there is a great news – Jesus did also bring us Peace. Jesus gave us peace that can and will help us through those difficult times and when that sword shows up and tries to interfere – that peace can remind us that Jesus won for us the salvation and life everlasting that was promised.

You and I have all that we need – we have the love of God in our lives, the Bible with so many wonderful messages and examples – so now that we've bought the product and trust in the campaign what do you think we should use as our slogan or jingle when it comes to the good

news of God? Might be something that we all can take a moment to think about. Perhaps it's as simple as "the peace is mightier than the sword" or "lower the sword and raise up the peace" the possibilities are endless. Bottom line, there's a reason that I'm a pastor and not an executive in an advertising firm, that's not my forte, but whatever that slogan is it should be all about the peace that passes all understanding and that peace that keeps our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn of the Day: Lift High the Cross

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
Come Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Apostles Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**)

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another; that differences might not overshadow our baptismal and Christian unity.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Help us to care for our land, air and waterways that we may continue to nurture their growth and sustain their fruits and crops to feed those who are hungry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Protecting God, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict – be it from safe practices because of COVID or from racial disparity – raise up leaders who work to develop lasting peace and reconciliation. Be with those who are persecuted and guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Encourage organizations and individuals who care for ALL! Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurtures as you do. Comfort all who long to be father and all for whom this day is difficult because their fathers are no longer with them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, we ask that you be with those of our congregations and those who are watching in – help those who struggle with loneliness and fear, those that are fighting illness and disease, those that long to be with those they love but can't because of this pandemic. Heal those within our congregations and friends of our members like Alana and Jeff and Kirk and those that we now name in our hearts..... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Receive these prayers, O God, and be with us now as we say the prayer that Jesus taught to us....

Lord's Prayer

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Blessing:

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, +Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen

Sending Hymn: I love to tell the story #390 vs 1 and 3

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,

Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love

I love to tell the story because I know it's true

It satisfies my longings as nothing else will do.

I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glory

And tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best

Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,

I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glory

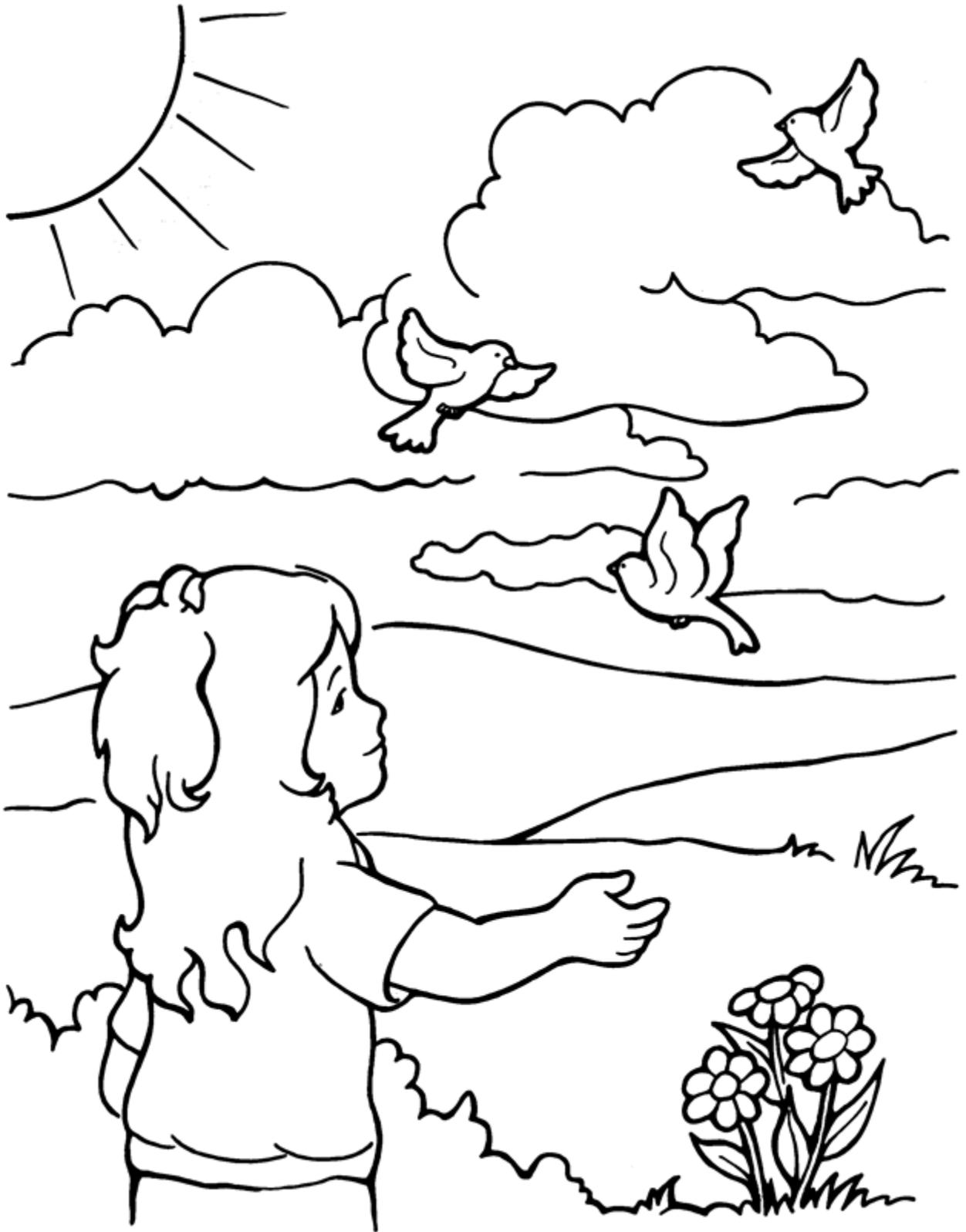
And tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Intern Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com

Birds In Air



Aren't two sparrows sold for only a penny? But your Father knows when any one of them falls to the ground.
Matthew 10:29 (CEV)

He Cares for You!



Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows. - Matthew 10:29-31 (NLT)

You Are Precious in His Sight



God Cares for You

So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. Matthew 10:31 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 10:24-39 (NIV)

N N W J W S E B Y K J R R G S
 A Q M N W O T N S C P T W R H
 B T A P U A R U I E N J Q O U
 O E S U V M F T D K R Z W U X
 V A T U K D B R H E T V Y N L
 E C E D E J S E A Y N N A D F
 O H R M S H H S R I N T T N V
 I E E F G U S P A E D Y X B T
 G R S G F J L A P R D P S M V
 F O L L O W I R A F B Z C Q Z
 W H R J R P F R O U M F Q A H
 Q A Q F Z V E O F A L L U T O
 R I H E A D U W A U P N R R W
 Q R Y A Z Y D S K F B O D Y I
 F S R C C R O S S S W S O U L

STUDENT	GROUND	FOLLOW	PENNY	HAIRS
SPARROWS	FALL	TEACHER	WORTHY	SOUL
WORTH	LIFE	HEAD	MASTER	CROSS
NUMBERED	ABOVE	SERVANT	BODY	AFRAID

Precious In His Sight Jumble

YOU ARE PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.



GURNOD

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5

SLOD

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1

PNENY

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7 6 4

HRIAS

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3

8

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground
apart from the will of your Father.
Matthew 10:29 (NLT)

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

HERE ARE SOME CLUES IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!

1. The surface of a piece of land. I dug a hole in the _____.
2. Exchanged something for money. He _____ his bicycle.
3. A copper coin that is of very little value. Matthew 10:29
4. The importance or value of something or someone.
5. Those things growing on the top of your head.