

I saw that most of the birds busily began their breakfast, but I was surprised at the chaffinches. They were very jealous and greedy and tried to keep all the food for themselves by attacking other birds. They were so busy doing this that they did not have time to enjoy the tasty crumbs.

Are there not some people like the chaffinches? They get plenty good things from God, but they are jealous of other people who get good things. Because of their jealousy they cannot enjoy God's gifts and they also forget to give God thanks for His kindness. We must not be like these chaffinches. We must guard against jealousy and greed, and we must always remember to give thanks to God.

I noticed that the little birds were watching out for danger. Suddenly they would all fly away together with a great flurry. Why? Because a seagull or crow came to help itself from the table. The little birds were afraid to stay on the table in case the big bird attacked them.

We should learn from the little birds to be always on our guard against danger. We must keep away from what is harmful to our bodies, but especially from what is harmful to our souls. There is nothing so dangerous as sin. You must keep away from friends who want you to swear, steal and break the Sabbath. You must avoid reading nasty books and guard against looking at horrible pictures. Most of all, you must find shelter for your soul so that you will be safe from God's punishment for your sins.

When the little birds flew away from danger some of them sheltered under a rhododendron bush. Others went into the dense branches of some shrubs. How clever! They knew that big birds could not get into these places to attack them.

Now, where will you find shelter for your soul? I hope your answer is, "Only in Jesus". Always pray to God to make you able to hurry to Jesus and to hide in Him for safety.

What is it to hide in Jesus? It is just to believe in Him. Ask God to make you willing to do this, because no one who believes in Jesus will ever perish.

Of course, you will meet with danger after you believe in Jesus. One day, at nesting time, I heard the frightened cries of some birds. I went out and saw two blackbirds chattering in alarm at something. The cause of their alarm was their enemy, Ginger the cat. I soon chased him away. It was the distress call of the birds which brought someone to help them.

Those of you who are believers must do the same kind of thing when Satan, your enemy, attacks you and when there are other dangers. You must call to God. Indeed, all of you must do this.

Pray to God for help and safety. Be like the man we read about in Psalm 34: "This poor man cried, God heard, and saved him from all his distresses." Pray this prayer from Psalm 16: "Lord keep me; for I trust in Thee."

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