

Living Lent | Day 20

Our Purpose

After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near.

But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret.

Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.

John 7:1–2 RSV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

After the beautiful prologue of John's Gospel in Chapter 1, John proceeds to walk us through a series of miracles or signs and wonders that Jesus proclaims. In Chapter 5 he heals a man at the Sheepgate in Jerusalem who had been sick for 38 years. This occurs on the Sabbath and Jesus commands the healed one to "pick up your pallet and walk". The Jewish leaders take offense to this claiming it violates the Sabbath prohibition against work. Thus, the scriptures tell us they began to find ways to kill Jesus.

Despite threats against his life, in our narrative in Chapter 7 we recognize that Jesus will of course be in Jerusalem once again at the Feast of Tabernacles. Just as he had done since he was 12 years old, he will be at the temple "in his Father's house"

or “about his Father’s business (Luke 2:49). Indeed, here we find Jesus in the temple speaking openly and teaching, defying the persecutions and threats from the religious elite. He is not influenced by opposition but led by “the one who sent me”. “I know him, because I am from him, and he has sent me” (7: 29).

This is Jesus fulfilling his Telos on earth. This Greek word Telos means purpose, ultimate aim or goal.

We too have a Telos. It is more than a personal mission statement. It is our purpose, our ultimate aim in this earthly life. Just as with Jesus it is led by our relationship with God the Father. The more we get to know the Father, the more we listen and discern his business for us.

The season of Lent is a time for faith-growth in preparation for commemorating the dying and raising of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our opportunities for faith-growth come from listening to the right source and following through, even against all odds. “Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice” (Ps. 95:7).

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

Dr. Jimmy Griffin is the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Darien. The Church was founded by the original Scot Clans that came to coastal Georgia in 1736. Landing at the lower bluff in the town of what would become Darien they disembarked along with their Presbyterian Minister, the Rev. John McCloud. Today FPC Darien is a haven for retirees and coastal residents both full and part-time in McIntosh County. Close in proximity physically to Morningstar Children’s Home, the congregation and leadership obviously know the important work completed by the Staff for the Children of Georgia.

*It takes a lot of everything to **create home and healing** for the foster children, our neighbors, served at Morningstar Children’s Home.*

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