



Living Lent | March 22

The Family Business

Jesus said to the Jews, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

“Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5: 19-29 (NRSV)

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

What does it look like when we enter into the family business, that is the business of our Father? We live in a world that allows you to be what you want to be when you grow up. At the time that John was writing this, people would typically live and work as a family unit, learning from the father or mother what it is that they did to make a living or to take care of the family. It was expected that they would follow in their parent's footsteps. This is how the ancient people, and some people still today, pass

on traditional skills- from generation to generation.

This story is about how sons and daughters can be an apprentice of the God of the cosmos, and how we, as sons and daughters, should be watching carefully to see what the Father is doing. Not only does the Father want to show us the family business, but the Father also wants us to lead His business the way He has always intended. His business is giving life to the dead and allowing His sons and daughters to experience resurrection life in eternity, and in this world. Jesus is saying in His public ministry that the resurrection life has already begun.

If we, as sinners, see and hear what Jesus has done and what He is still doing, while understanding that He is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us (and is whom He says He is), then we are able to understand who we are as children of the living God. If we abide in the Father through the Son, while listening to the Spirit we are able to see the secret of what being His apprentice is all about. The coming judgment of death will pass from death to life. The Father has given the Son the responsibility to execute judgment on His behalf. The judgment the Son executes is the defeat of evil. That is the family business.

When we believe in the Son the way the Father does, we become anointed fighters for the God of the cosmos. We are new creations, and while following the blueprint of Christ the old creation is dealt with. In our submission to the Son, we become the anointed fighters of eternity.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

The Rev. Michael Gumulauskas was ordained as a Deacon in The Episcopal Church in 2018 in the Diocese of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He currently serves as the Rector at St. Andrews and St. Cyprians in Darien, Georgia. St. Andrew's is a historic church originally built in 1844 and burned during the Civil War. The present building was completed in 1879. Rich in history and an exceptionally beautiful church, completed in 1879 of classic 14th century English architect, the Church and its congregation serves the McIntosh County and Georgia low country in an exceptional manner. Likewise, St. Cyprian's is a historical tabby church built by the formerly enslaved people from Butler's Island after the Civil war. The church was consecrated in 1876 and is believed to be one of the largest tabby structures still in use in Georgia. It is part of the Episcopal Community of McIntosh County and serves as inspiration for the steady presence of Service above Self in the County of McIntosh and beyond.

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