

I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

The second chapter of Luke is one of the best known in the Bible. It includes the birth of Jesus and the first years of His life. At the end of this chapter we read of His being "lost" in the midst of the elders of Israel, asking and answering their questions. Confronted by His mother, Jesus asked this piercing question: **"wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"**(Luke 2:49). Even at His tender age He knew there was important business for Him to accomplish? If I am to be His disciple, I must also be about "my Father's business." Do your neighbors and friends even know that you are a Christian? Can they see that you are about your heavenly Father's business? Or, are you more concerned about your profession, your job, your relations with your "boss" than your Father in heaven?

Salt of the Earth

When a person is said to be the "salt of the earth" today, it often means they are good, dependable, honest people. Biblically, however, there is much more to this phrase. It means that you have an influence, an impact upon your surroundings, the community in which you live, the people you meet. Jesus said, **"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men"** (Mt. 5:13). Salt can have a powerful effect upon every element it touches. But when it loses its "savor" when it ceases to have that influence, it is of little value. So it is with a Christian; a person who has the capability and the opportunity to influence others for Christ but fails to do so is of little or no value to his neighbors, associates, family, or God. Yes, being part of

the family of God demands your time, your talent, and your energy; but that is part of being "about my Father's business."

Light of the World

The ninth plague brought upon Egypt was a **"darkness which may be felt"** (Ex. 10:21). Darkness always seems to represent that which is sinister, fearful, hidden. It was so devastating to Pharaoh that he sought a compromise with God's demands. The Christians at Philippi were told they must **"shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life"** (Phi. 2:15-16). Who better to dispel that darkness than those who have been "enlightened" by the Word of God (Heb. 6:4)? No hiding their light; no secret saints; no compromising with Satan. That is how you **"Let your light so shine before men...glorify your Father which is in heaven"** (Mt. 5:16). That is also what is meant to be about our "Father's business."

"Bear Much Fruit"

Palestine in the first century was a place that needed fruit-bearing trees, not just shade trees. Jesus spoke of His disciples' influence, saying, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8). This is but another indication that being a Christian involves more than merely occupying a pew at various times in a week. We must "bear fruit." That means taking the Gospel message to the lost so they can be saved (Mk. 16:15-16). It also applies to the fruit discussed in Galatians 5:22-23: **"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."** It is clear from the nature of this fruit that it is borne in every part of our life, among our neighbors and friends, and even before our enemies. This is every day fruit-bearing, not just on Sunday in the church building. The people of

the first century cut down trees that bore no fruit, for they merely took up space and did no good (Lk. 13:6-9). Being about our Father's business means bearing fruit, not just taking up space.

"Glorify Your Father in Heaven"

The mandate to "glorify God" in our life is hardly new; here we discover it again: **"let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf"** (1 Pet. 4:15-16). If persecution be our lot in life, let us endure it without complaining. Others, observing the depth of our convictions, may be drawn to such a powerful faith. Early Christians were told, **"know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"** (1 Cor. 6:19-20). They lived in an environment hostile to everything Christ stood for, but even in their everyday encounters with those people, the skeptics, they were to glorify God in their body. Their actions, behavior, words and motives were to stand out in bold distinction from the licentious lives of their neighbors. Our "Father's business" must be uppermost in our life. It takes effort, commitment, perseverance, and love to do so. Some will oppose us, as they did Christ. Some will ridicule us, as they did Christ (John 15:20). He did not flinch in His Father's business. It is incumbent upon us to do the same. Have you been about your Father's business lately? What about today?

Carl B. Garner from *Eastside Edifier*

ANNIVERSARY

Dave and Joy Parish, 06-14.

BIRTHDAYS

Kristen Bright, 06-10; Steve Brown, 06-14.

ILL

Sunday: Gary Cole (PM); Dave Parish. **Wednesday:** Gary and Melissa Cole. Helen Franklin was released from the hospital in Louisiana on Monday last week. Millie Robertson's sister was admitted to St. Luke's East on Wednesday and may be moved to Overland Park Regional. Floyd Thrasher had surgery in Springfield, MO on Thursday and was released on Saturday.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Robin Brown was away on business. Chris Edwards is away this weekend on business. Debra Gragg is in Tennessee on vacation. Ed and Verna Hanson are in Canada for their summer stay.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

If you have not had your picture taken yet, please see Steve Brown as soon as possible!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

The Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, June 10 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 47; Sunday PM, 46; Wednesday PM, 36.

Those To Serve

June 10, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST.....David Parish
ASSIST.....Allen Scott
CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 13th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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