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My Father's Business

Luke 2:49

The first recorded words of the Lord in each of the gospels furnish an index to its character. In Luke 2:49 we read: "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" People constantly complained as to the Lord going after sinners (5:30, 7:34, 15:2, 19:7), and in this He was despised and reproached while He was "about His Father's business."

The very first words of His public ministry fully confirm this business: "The Spirit of the Lord was upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor ... to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (4:18-19). Among His last words before He returned to His Father were: "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations" (24:47).

Never for an instant did He allow Himself to be turned aside from this blessed mission. Even amid the unspeakable sorrows of the cross, He blessed. There seems to be a special ring of triumph in the words, "Today you will be with Me in paradise" (23:43), for His mission had not been in vain. He had come from heaven to gather gems out of the sin and sorrow of this sad world. Countless ones shall fill heaven – the result of the Father's business having been accomplished by Jesus our Lord while here on earth.

We admire and are called to imitate Him. In order to do this we shall need to sit at His feet as did Mary (Lk. 10), and have hearts and eyes that can weep for sinners as did His (Lk. 19). May we have grace to tread this blessed pathway and be about our Father's business, in the power of the same anointing which He received (Lk. 24:49).

