

**AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD, AS CHILDREN OF THE RESURRECTION,
WE GIVE FROM A CHEERFUL HEART, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT WE JUST DO**

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 2025

Resurrection life after death. It was a divisive topic among 1st century Jewish religious leaders. Some affirmed wholeheartedly the reality of the resurrection, while others denied it. Those deniers came to Jesus that day to debunk the resurrection. In response to them Jesus made this powerful statement: “those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead...cannot die anymore, because they are...children of God, being children of the resurrection.”

As a Jew, Jesus was speaking to his fellow Jews about that mysterious age to come on the other side of death. He was saying that those who belong there, are children of God, children of the resurrection. But children of God, children of the resurrection are not just those who are found in heaven. The scriptures elsewhere refer to Jesus’ disciples as children of God. But does being children of God, children of the resurrection have any relevance to your life and mine as we go about our day-to-day activities? Yes, it does. There are many examples that can be found in your life and mine. Carol Gargon and Dave Sayer have something to say about what this looks like. They have been asked during this Annual Stewardship Campaign to share an example from their lives.

CAROL AND DAVE SHARE

Let me highlight a few of Carol and Dave’s words. Carol said that when she started attending Good Shepherd she had grown tired from working hard at her secular work and within the church and just wanted a time to fade into the chairs in this Nave and focus on her own spirituality. But then she said that fading into the chairs and focusing on her own spirituality was “not

what we just do!” Throughout her talk she repeated this rationale for getting involved here. She said: *“that is what we just do.”* She said it again and again. She said: “I am tithing, [giving at least ten percent,] not only with my pledge but with my time and talents which are the most precious gifts from me...because that is what we just do!” “That is what we just do.”

Now let me highlight something Dave shared with us. He began with these words: “Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians says: ‘God loves a cheerful giver.’ Can we be cheerful in our giving?” And then later on Dave said that through the influence of their children he and his wife “came to a real and mobilizing faith in Jesus Christ – with all its attendant blessings and calls to serve. With all these blessings has come a *richness* of time, talent and treasure for which I am *exceedingly grateful* to God -- and from which we cheerfully *give* to our church.”

Carol Gargon and Dave Sayer give from their finances and their time and talents. Carol does it, because that is just what we do, it comes naturally. Dave does it, with a natural cheerful heart, because of his deep gratitude to God. What is it that motivates their giving and serving? What motivates you? The answer is revealed in today’s gospel passage.

That day Jesus replied to the religious leaders that those who are worthy of that age to come: “cannot die anymore, because they are children of God...they are children of the resurrection.” You and I give and serve in many ways to our families and our church, because we are children of God; we are children of the resurrection. Two very important points:

- Jesus tells us that we are **children of the resurrection**. This means much more than resurrection after death, as wonderful as that is to look forward to. We, as Jesus’ disciples, have been given the reality of new resurrection life right here, right now.

Romans chapter six says it this way: *“We were buried therefore with [Christ] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness*

of life.” It is through baptism’s symbolic death and resurrection that we die and are raised again through the power of the indwelling Spirit that enables us to live new lives. We are children of the resurrection. We live new resurrection lives now, and in life still yet to come.

- But we are not only children of the resurrection, we are also **children of God**. The original Greek word translated here as children, is the word “υἱὸς (huios),” which, interestingly, is not the Greek word for “children.” Huios is the Greek word for “son.” Literally this passage says that we are sons of God. The Bible, being written in a very patriarchal, had a distinct male gender focus. Recognizing this, many modern translators, when the context calls for it, translate the word “huios,” not as sons, but as either “sons and daughters,” or “children.” Which is an appropriate translation here. But I believe Jesus also meant more than “children of God.” By referring to his disciples as “sons of God,” he is making an important point. Because the only other individual referred to as the Son of God, was Jesus himself. As radical as it may sound, you and I are given the same title as Jesus, Sons of God.

Galatians chapter three also speaks of this. The Revised English Bible reads this way: “It is through faith that you are all sons of God in union with Christ Jesus. Baptized into union with him, you have all put on Christ like a garment.” It is through the Holy Spirit, that you and I put on Christ, and are sons of God in union with Christ Jesus. But how do we do this, how do we put on Christ? The key is found in the Greek word “metanoia” which is usually translated as repent. But it means much more than that. Metanoia is about turning around, changing our mind, seeing things anew. This usually comes as Fr. Richard Rohr says, through an experience of either great love, or great suffering. And we often experience this while on a retreat or pilgrimage, or a deep time of prayer, or a time of suffering or grief. I believe Dave Sayer experienced this. He had been baptized and grew up in the Episcopal Church. And yet, something was still missing. I believe he shared with us this something this morning when he said: “Degen and I came to a real and mobilizing faith in Jesus

Christ – with all its attendant blessings and calls to serve.” You see, it is through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ that we experience the power of the resurrection; the power and intimacy as children of God.

As sons and daughters of God, as children of the resurrection who have encountered Jesus Christ, we all give in many ways, and from a cheerful heart just as Carol and Dave have said, because that is just what we do. Thanks be to God.