

<p><b>Prædiketekst: Johannes 4,46-53</b>  <i>Martinskirken og Gratiakirken 2021-10-24 (LGJ)</i></p> <p><b>Og han og hele hans husstand kom til tro</b></p> <p>Evangeliet viser os, 1) at troen er for hele husstanden, 2) at troen kommer, når familien er i krise og en far opsøger Jesus, og 3) at Jesu ord giver os troen.</p>	<p><b>Sermon text: John 4:46-53</b>  <i>Martins Church and Gratia Church 2021-10-24 (LGJ)</i></p> <p><b>And he himself believed, and all his household.</b></p> <p>The gospel shows us, 1) that faith is for the whole household, 2) that faith comes when the family is in crisis and a father seeks out Jesus, and 3) that Jesus' words give us faith.</p>
<p><b>1. Troen er for hele husstanden</b></p> <p>Evangelisten fortæller: <i>Jesus kom nu atter til Kana, hvor han havde gjort vand til vin (4,46)</i>. Her helbredte han en kongelig embedsmands søn, som boede i Kapernaum. Og fortæller: <i>Han og hele hans husstand kom til tro. Dette sit andet tegn gjorde Jesus, efter at han var kommet fra Judæa til Galilæa (4,54)</i>. Her bliver vi mindet om Guds hjælp midt i ægteskabet, og om Guds hjælp i hele husstanden. Hjælpen blev givet ved Jesus, Guds Søn. Her gjorde han sine første to tegn: ved et bryllup og i en husstand.</p> <p>Hvad betyder det for to, som er blevet gift? At de må blive ved med at tage imod velsignelsen fra ham, som var med til deres bryllup, JESUS! Tilgive hinanden, ligesom Kristus har tilgivet dem; tage imod børn fra Guds hånd, døbe dem og lære at holde alt, hvad Jesus har befalet os.</p> <p>Og hvad betyder det i en kristen familie? Bla at en kristen mand ligesom spejle den kongelige embedsmand må bringe sin families nød og lidelse til Kristus og dele Jesu ord med den.</p> <p>Vi ved, at kristne kvinder ofte er gode til at se og bære dette ansvar for børnene. Paulus skriver jo til Timotheus: <i>"Jeg husker den oprigtige tro, som du havde, og som allerede din mormor Louis og din mor Eunike havde, og som jeg er vis på, at du også har"</i> (2 Tim 1,5). Derimod var Timotheus' far var græker og nævnes ikke i forbindelse med troen, selv om han måske sørget godt for sin familie materielt.</p> <p>Vi mærker også, at Paulus særligt nævner fædres ansvar: <i>Og fædre, gør ikke jeres børn vrede, men opdrag dem med Herrens tugt og formaning (Ef 6,4)</i>. Der er skræmmende eksempler på, at Jesu egne disciple overså børn og helst var dem foruden. De bad voksne om ikke at forstyrre Jesus med deres børn. Da blev Jesus vred på dem. Den kristne tro er ikke specielt for mænd, som sidder i en kreds og drøfter teologi. Troen er for hele familien!</p> <p>Har mænd da en særlig fristelse til at løbe fra ansvaret i familien, sådan at de ikke engang selv opdager, at de har svigtet? På syndefaldets dag,</p>	<p><b>1. Faith is for the whole household</b></p> <p><b>The apostle John writes:</b> <i>Jesus now came again to Cana, where he had turned water into wine (4:46)</i>. Here he healed the son of a royal official who lived in Capernaum. And tells: <i>He and all his household came to faith</i>. This was Jesus' second sign after coming from Judea to Galilee (4:54). Here we are reminded of God's help in the midst of marriage, and of God's help in our family / household. The help was given by Jesus, the Son of God. Here he made his first two signs: at a wedding and in a family.</p> <p>What does this mean for two who have been married? To must continue to receive the blessing from him who attended their wedding, JESUS! Forgive one another, just as Christ forgave them; receive children from the hand of God, baptize them and learn to keep all that Jesus has commanded us.</p> <p>And what does that mean for a Christian family? Among other things that a Christian man should bring the need and sorrow of his family to Christ and share the faith with his household.</p> <p>We know that Christian women often are good at seeing and bearing this responsibility for their children. Paul writes to Timothy: <i>"I remember the sincere faith which you had, and which your grandmother Louis and your mother Eunike already had, and which I am sure you also have"</i> (2 Tim. 1: 5). By contrast, Timothy's father was Greek and is not mentioned as a believer, although he may have provided well for his family materially.</p> <p>We also notice that Paul specifically mentions the responsibilities of fathers: <i>And fathers, do not anger your children, but bring them up with the discipline and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6: 4)</i>. There are frightening examples of Jesus' own disciples overlooking children and not wanting them to be present. They asked adults not to disturb Jesus with their children. Then Jesus got angry with them. The Christian faith is not specific to men who sit in a circle and discuss theology. Faith is for the whole family!</p>

hvor Djævelen kom og fristede Eva, står der, "at Adam stod hos hende". Men at han var tavs. Han hjalp ikke sin kære Eva, selv om det var det ham, som havde fået buddet direkte af Gud. Han kendte det. Men sagde ingenting. Ikke før Gud spurgte ham. Da svarede han: "Kvinden, som du satte hos mig, gav mig af træet, og så spiste jer!" Hun fik skylden – og ansvaret.

Sådan kan fædre også være påfaldende tavse og overlade ansvaret til børnenes mor eller til børnene selv. Sådan skal det ikke være. Mænd må ikke gøre troen til en privat ting, som de dyrker selv. Troen er fælles i hele familien.

Apostlen Paulus skriver til Timotheus om hele familien: *Du må ikke tale hårdt til en gammel mand, ham skal du formane som en far, unge mænd som brødre, gamle kvinder som mødre og unge piger som søstre, i al ærbarhed.* Og han siger derpå: *Men hvis en enke har børn eller børnebørn, skal disse lære at leve gudfrygtigt inden for deres egen familie og gøre gengæld mod deres gamle; for det er værdsat hos Gud... Også det skal du påminde dem om, for at ingen skal kunne udsætte noget på dem. Den, som ikke sørger for sine egne, og særlig for sin egen husstand, har fornægtet troen og er værre end en vantro (1 Tim. 5,1-4 og 7-8).*

Vi læser også, hvordan hele husstanden blev døbt: *Og en gudfrygtig kvinde ved navn Lydia, en purpurhandler fra byen Thyatira, lyttede til alle Paulus' ord, og Herren åbnede hendes hjerte, så hun tog dem til sig. Da hun og hendes husstand var blevet døbt, indbød hun os: «Hvis I anser mig for at være tro mod Herren, så kom ind i mit hus og bliv dér.» Hun nødte os til det. (ApG 16,14-15).* Her opstod en menighed i en husstand.

Og der fortælles om en fængselsbetjent i Filippi, at han sørgede for hele sin husstand med dåb: *Så tog han dem op i sit hus og dækkede op for dem, og han og hele hans husstand jublede over at være kommet til tro på Gud (ApG 16,34).*

Nu presser det på at få at vide, fædre og mødre, bedsteforældre og unge kan bære dette ansvar? Et enkelt svar er: Brug missionsbefalingen! *Gør dem til mine disciple, idet I døber ... og lærer dem at holde.* [Men hvad så med al den tid, du taber med andagt og gudstjeneste og oplæring? Jesus svarer: "Og se, jeg er med jer alle dage indtil verdens ende!" Det er ikke et tab, at Jesus er i din familie.] – Og har vi brug for et mere praktisk svar, får vi det i dages tekst:

Do men then have a special temptation to run away from responsibility in the family, so that they do not even discover that they have failed? On the day of the fall, when the Devil came and tempted Eve, it says, "that Adam stood by her." But that he was silent. He did not help his dear Eve, even though it was he who had received the command directly from God. He knew it. But said nothing. Not until God asked him. Then he answered, "*The woman whom you sat with me gave me of the tree, and then you ate!*" She got the blame - and the responsibility.

In this way, fathers can also be strikingly silent and leave the responsibility to the children's mother or to the children themselves. That's not how it should be. Men must not make faith a private thing that they worship themselves. Faith is common throughout the family.

The apostle Paul writes to Timothy about the whole family: *Do not speak harshly to an old man, exhort him as a father, young men as brothers, old women as mothers and young girls as sisters, in all honor.* And he says: *But if a widow have children or grandchildren, let them learn to live godly within their own family, and to repay their old ones; for it is valued with God ..... You must also remind them so that no one will be able to expose anything on them. He who does not provide for his own, and especially for his own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim. 5: 1-4 and 7-8).*

We also read how the whole household was baptized: <sup>14</sup> *One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. (Acts 16:14-15 NIV).* Here a congregation arose in a household. And it is told of a prison officer in Philippi that he provided for his whole household by baptism: *then he took them up into his house and covered them up, and he and all his household rejoiced to have come to faith in God (ApG 16.34).*

Now it is pushing to be told, fathers and mothers, grandparents and young people can bear this responsibility? A simple answer is: Use the mission command! Make them my disciples, baptizing and teaching them to keep. - What about all the time you lose with devotion and worship and training? Jesus answers, "And, behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." It is not a loss that Jesus is in your family. - And if we need a more practical answer, we get it in today's text:

## 2. Troen kommer, når familien mærker nøden og en far opsøger Jesus

Faderen i evangeliet var kongelig embedsmand. En mand med værdighed og ære. Høj stilling. God løn. Hvad tager han sig af? Af sit syge barn. Der er stor krise i familien. Og han tager ansvar. Han lader alle andre opgaver og pligter og fornøjelser ligge. Han forsømmer alt andet for at redde sin søn, som lider og er ved at dø.

Når vi indser, hvad vores familie behøver: tro på Gud og omsorg, kærlighed og tryghed, da kan vi ikke slå os til tåls med, at barnet jo klarer sig godt i skolen, og at jeg har et godt arbejde og sørger for at I både har god bolig og dejlig bil og har planlagt en god ferie, og at der er ældrepleje på plejehjemmet. Der bliver kaldt stærkt på os! - Gud lærer os midt i livet om vores og vores families afmagt, når vi rammes af lidelse i familien.

Og i Bibelen afslører han desuden kriser, som vi ellers ikke kunne se, og at der er hjælp, hvor vi ellers ikke forestillede os at der var nogen hjælp mulig. Hør, hvad evangelisten Johannes skriver: *"Den, der ikke bliver født af vand og Ånd, kan ikke komme ind i Guds rige. Det, der er født af kødet, er kød, og det, der er født af Ånden, er ånd"* (Joh 3,5-6). - Hvordan går det mig og mine børn, hvis vi ikke fødes af vand og Ånd? Da fører døden os i evig ulykke. Jesus har jo lært os: *"Således elskede Gud verden, at han gav sin enbårne søn, for at enhver, som tror på ham, ikke skal fortabes, men have evigt liv!"* (Joh 3,16). Hvor vigtigt er det da at min familie tror på Jesus? Eller hør et andet ord: *Jesus gjorde også mange andre tegn, som hans disciple så; dem er der ikke skrevet om i denne bog. Men dette er skrevet, for at I skal tro, at Jesus er Kristus, Guds Søn, og for at I, når I tror, skal have liv i hans navn* (Joh 20,30-31).

Der er krise i enhver familie, hvis man har lukket munden på Gud og lagt Guds ord væk. Da den på vej mod døden, også selv om der er god indtægt og fed underholdning og oplevelser i verden.

Da må en kristen far reagere ved at rejse derhen, hvor vi ved, at Jesus er, og trygle ham om hjælp. Det må du gøre som far! Det må du gøre som mor! Det må vi gøre sammen i vore familier. Og da må vi vide, hvor vi finder ham! I Den hellige Skrifts helligdom. Paulus forklarer, at en kristen menighed er Guds husstand / familie, som er bygget på profeternes og apostlenes grundvold. (Ef 2,19-20). Og da er vi ved det tredje og afgørende.

## 2. Faith comes when the family feels the need and a father seeks out Jesus

The father of the gospel was a royal official. A man of dignity and honor. High position. Good salary. What does he take care of? Of his sick child. There is a big crisis in the family. And he takes responsibility. He leaves all other duties and pleasures to rest. He neglects everything else to save his son, who is suffering and dying.

When we realize what our family needs: Faith in God, care, love and security, then it is not satisfying if we just care if our child is doing well in school, and that we have a good job with high income and have a nice car and have made good vacation-plans and that there is elderly care at the nursing home. We are being called upon strongly! God teaches us in our lives that we are not in control and need His help and salvation when our family is hurt by sin and guilt and sufferings.

In the Bible God also reveals a crisis we didn't realize on our own, and that there is help where we otherwise did not imagine that any help was possible. Hear what the evangelist John writes: *"He who is not born of water and the Spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"* (John 3: 6-6). - How are I and my children doing if we are not born of water and the Spirit? Then death leads us to eternal misery. Jesus taught us, *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (Jn 3,16). How important is it then that my family believes in Jesus? Or hear another word: *Jesus also did many other signs, which his disciples saw; they are not written about in this book. But this is written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that when you believe you may have life in his name* (John 20: 30-31).

There is a crisis in every family if one has silenced God by putting away the word of God. There is no help and comfort in having a good income and great entertainment and experiences in the world.

Every Christian father must respond to such a need by traveling to where we know Jesus is and by begging him for help. You must do that as a father! You have to do that as a mother! We must do it together in our families. And then we must know where to find him! In the sanctuary of the Holy Scriptures. Paul explains that a Christian church is God's household / family, built on the foundation of the prophets and apostles. (Ephesians 2: 19-20). And then we are at the third and crucial.

### 3. Jesu ord giver os denne tro

*Jesus sagde til ham: "Gå hjem, din søn lever."*

*Manden troede Jesus på hans ord og gik;*

Hvor fik manden troen fra? Fra Jesus' ord. Jesus sagde, at sønnen levede, selv om faderen vidste, at sønnen led og var ved at dø. Men når Jesus sagde, at han levede, ændrede alt sig hos denne far. Han vidste, at sønnen nu havde det, som Jesus sagde.

Ligesom da Gud skabte himmel og jord: *Gud sagde: Der skal være lys, og det var lys. Gud sagde at der skal spire grønne planer frem. Og så spirede der grønne planter frem. Gud sagde: Vandet skal vrimle med levende væsner ... og det skete. Sådan virkede Jesus' ord dengang. Og manden troede.*

Det kan evangeliet. Han siger det også til os. Han siger, at dåben genføder. Og du døber dit barn. Da er dit barn Guds kære barn ved vand og Ånd. Han siger: *Mine får hører mit ord og jeg giver dem evigt liv.* Og du læser og genfortæller

Johannesevangeliet i jeres andagt, da giver Herren din familie troen i hjertet. Du sidder hos din gamle mor eller bedstemor, som er ensom, syg og bange for at dø. Og da fortæller du hende om røveren på korset, hvad Jesus sagde, og at Jesus også sagde: "Det er fuldbragt!" Du fortæller hende: "Vær ikke bange. For Jesus døde for dine synder. Jesus opstod fra graven. Du er døbt til at tilhøre ham. Han vil ikke slippe dig og ikke forlade dig! Det har han lovet." Da får hun det, som du fortæller i ordet. Og hendes præst vil komme og give hende Herrens legeme og blod. Sådan kommer Herren til hende i Evangeliet og Sakramentet.

Og sådan også med os selv. Vi er det, vi hører. Vi bliver det, vi lytter til. Derfor skal der her i kirken prædikes Evangelium, ja det skal sige til os, så vi må få det som evangeliet siger. Og du hører hans tilgivelse og hvad han lover en synder som dig – og hvad han lover din husstand. Og det tør du tro, fordi du kender Jesus Kristus i Ordet. Amen.

### 3. Jesus' words give us this faith

*Jesus saith unto him: "Go; your son will live."*

*The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.*

Where did the man get the faith from? From Jesus' words. Jesus said that the son was alive, even though the Father knew that the son was suffering and was dying. But when Jesus said he was alive, everything changed with this father. He knew that the son now had what Jesus said. Just like when God created heaven and earth: *God said: There must be light, and it was light. God said that green plans should emerge. And then green plants sprouted. God said: The water will abound with living beings... and it happened.* That is how Jesus' words worked then. And the man believed.

The gospel can such great things in our hearts. He says that to us too. He says that *baptism is the bath of regeneration.* And you baptize your child. Then your child is God's dear child by water and Spirit. He says: *My sheep hear my word and I give them eternal life.* And you read and retell the Gospel of John in your devotion, then the Lord gives your family faith in the heart. You are sitting with your old mother or grandmother, who is lonely, sick and afraid to die. And then you tell her about the thief on the cross who was saved by grace and that Jesus also said: "It is finished!"

You tell her, "Do not be afraid. For Jesus died for your sins. Jesus rose from the grave. You are baptized to belong to him. He will never leave you! He has promised that." Then she gets what you say in the word. And her pastor will come and share the Lord's body and blood with her. In this way the Lord visits her in the Gospel and in the Sacrament.

And so it is with ourselves. We are what we hear. We become what we listen to. Therefore, here in the church, the Gospel must be preached, yes it must be said to us, so we must get what the gospel says. And you hear his forgiveness and what he promises a sinner like you - and what he promises your household. And you dare to believe it because you know Jesus Christ in the Word. Amen.