

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 1

Citation: 1 Kings, Chap. 19, Verses 16b, 19-21
1 Kings 19: 16b, 19-21

The story of Elisha's selection as a prophet to succeed Elijah. Take your time but use word stress, pause, and changes in vocal tone to bring the story to life. It is NOT a negative story – more the misjudgment of Elijah as he approached Elisha. Help your listeners to hear and understand that.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

The LORD said to Elijah:

"You shall anoint Elisha,
son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah,
as prophet
to succeed you."

(commanding voice!)

(parenthetical?) (very short pause)

Elijah set out
and came upon Elisha,
son of Shaphat,
as he was plowing
with twelve yoke of oxen;
he was following the twelfth.

(parenthetical?)

(parenthetical) (very short pause)

Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him.

(very short pause)

Elisha left the oxen,
ran after Elijah,
and said,

(pick up pace until "Please")

"Please,
let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,
and I will follow you."

(pleading)

(appealing for permission)
(eager affirmation)

Elijah answered, "Go back!
Have I done anything to you?"

(anger? or deep disappointment?)

(self-serving?) (very short pause)

Elisha left him
and,
taking the yoke of oxen,
slaughtered them;
he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh,
and gave it to his people to eat.

(very short pause)

(parenthetical?)

(very short pause)

Then Elisha left
and followed Elijah as his attendant.

(reassuring; confident)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: Galatians, Chap. 5, Verses 1, 13-18
Galatians 5: 1, 13-18

Paul's "flesh" is not our bodies. It is the word ("sarx" in Greek) he uses when he refers to the tugs of the created, physical world [as well as man-made rules] pulling us away from the spiritual "freedom" of doing God's Will (Jesus' commandment of love). Take your time. Reflect your understanding of this fundamental concept of Paul's thinking. Lead your listeners to better understanding, too.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

Brothers and sisters:

For freedom
Christ set us free; (affirming; convinced)
so stand firm (almost an order?)
and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. (very short pause)

For you were called for freedom, (urgency)
brothers and sisters. (parenthetical)
But do not use this freedom (admonishing)
as an opportunity for the flesh;
rather,
serve one another through love. (short pause)

For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement,
namely,
You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (emphasize each word; separate "your" & "self")

But if you go on biting and devouring one another, (voice of wise counselor)
beware that you are not consumed by one another. (very short pause)

I say, then: (insistent!)
live by the Spirit (voice goes up)
and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. (voice goes down at end)

For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, (be the teacher)
and the Spirit against the flesh;
these are opposed to each other, (treat as a separate sentence)
so that you may not do what you want. (emphatic; teaching; slow down?)

But if you are guided by the Spirit,
you are not under the law. (reassuring)

The word of the Lord.

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GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 9, Verses 51-62
Luke 9: 51-62

The point of the passage is discipleship – not whether people are "nice" to you. Judging the intentions of people is a waste of effort. We either "do" and "not do" something; "trying" never enters the situation! Jesus is looking for people determined to make a difference while, at the same time, willing to be guided by God's Wisdom. Can you make that argument? Try!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the days for Jesus' being taken up were fulfilled,
he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem,
and he sent messengers ahead of him.

(be very firm)
(very short pause)

On the way they entered a Samaritan village
to prepare for his reception there,
but they would not welcome him
because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem.

(parenthetical?)
(voice goes down)

When the disciples James and John saw this they asked,
"Lord,
do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?"
Jesus turned and rebuked them,
and they journeyed to another village.

(incensed!) (very short pause)
(BOTH disciples and townsfolk?)
(matter-of-factly)

As they were proceeding on their journey
someone said to him,
"I will follow you wherever you go."

(eagerly stated)

Jesus answered him,
"Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests,
but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."

(let sentence stand separately)
"

And to another he said,
"Follow me."
(firm invitation)

But he replied,
"Lord, let me go first and bury my father."
But he answered him,
"Let the dead bury their dead."
But you,
go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

(gentle criticism)
(what discipleship is all about)

And another said,
"I will follow you, Lord,
but first let me say farewell to my family at home."
To him Jesus said,

Proclaim the Word!

Proclamation Format

"No one who sets a hand to the plow
and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

(a stronger criticism)

The Gospel of the Lord.