

[94] THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C

FIRST READING

Elisha rose and followed Elijah.

A reading from the first book of Kings

19:16b, 19-21

God told Elijah the prophet:

“Choose Elisha, the son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah,
to take your place as a prophet.”

Elijah left and found Elisha plowing in a field with a pair of oxen.

There were eleven other men in front of him in the field,
and each of them was also plowing with a pair of oxen.

Elijah went over to Elisha and put his robe on him.

Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah.

Then he said,

“Let me go and tell my father and mother good-by,
and I will go with you.”

Elijah answered, “Go back!

Did I tell you to do this?”

Elisha left him and went back.

He killed his two oxen and boiled them

by making a fire with the wood from the plow and the yoke.

He gave the meat to the people,

and they ate it.

Then he left with Elijah and became his servant.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

16:1-2ab and 5, 7-8, 11

R. (see 5a) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Protect me, Lord God!

I run to you for safety,

and I have said,

“Only you are my Lord!”

You, Lord, are all I want!

You are my choice,

and you keep me safe.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

I praise you, Lord,
for being my guide.
Even in the darkest night,
your teachings fill my mind.
I will always look to you,
as you stand beside me
and protect me from fear.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

You have shown me
the path to life,
and you make me glad
by being near to me.
Sitting at your right side,
I will always be joyful.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

SECOND READING

My brothers and sisters, you were called to freedom.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians

5:1, 13-15

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has set us free!
This means we are really free.
Now hold on to your freedom
and don't ever become slaves of the Law again.

My friends, you were chosen to be free.
So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want.
Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love.
All that the Law says
can be summed up in the command
to love others as much as you love yourself.
But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals,
you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

1 Samuel 3:9; John 6:68c

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the words of everlasting life.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

I will follow you wherever you will go.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

9:57-62

Along the way to Jerusalem someone said to Jesus,
“I’ll go anywhere with you!”

Jesus said, “Foxes have dens, and birds have nests,
but the Son of Man doesn’t have a place to call his own.”

Jesus told someone else to come with him.

But the man said,
“Lord, let me wait until I bury my father.”

Jesus answered, “Let the dead take care of the dead,
while you go and tell about God’s kingdom.”

Then someone said to Jesus,
“I want to go with you, Lord,
but first let me go back and take care of things at home.”

Jesus answered,
“Anyone who starts plowing and keeps looking back
isn’t worth a thing in God’s kingdom!”

The gospel of the Lord.



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Please help me to answer your call whenever I hear it and to do whatever I can to help you make the world a better place.
Amen

Readings:

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|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1 Kings | 19:16b,19-21 |
| Psalm | 16:1-2ab and 5, 7-8, 11 |
| Galatians | 5:1,13-15 |
| Luke | 9:57-62 |

Reflection:

There once were two sisters, named Megan and Brenna. They loved to play, watch TV, make crafts, listen to music, draw and read. Every once and a while their mother would call them to help out in the kitchen or their father would ask them to work with him in the yard. Megan would always immediately stop what she was doing and run to help her parents. Brenna, on the other hand, would always say, "Just a minute. I want to do _____ first." One day the Mom asked Megan and Brenna to go with her to help with the grocery shopping. Megan was ready in an instant but Brenna wanted to finish watching a TV show first. Mom and Megan did the grocery shopping and on the way home they stopped for lunch at a restaurant and then got ice cream. Brenna was very upset when they finally got home. She said she would have helped if she would have known about the trip to the restaurant and ice cream stand but the Mom told her that the surprises were a "thank you" for helping.

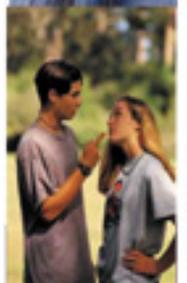
The first reading and the Gospel tell stories similar to this one. God calls us and asks us to join Him. Joining Him, however, means helping others and working to make the world a better place. Our lives are so busy, these days, that it is hard to stop what we are doing, to join God and help. Often we tell God that we want to be close to Him and to serve Him but when the time comes we say we have to go to soccer practice first, or have a sleep over with our friend first, or take a nap first, or go swimming first, or watch TV first.

God has amazingly great surprises for us! Much better even than ice cream! We have to stop what we are doing, though, and pay attention to God and help God by serving Him and others.

Discussion:

1. How would you feel if you were Brenna and you found out your Mom and sister got lunch at a restaurant and ice cream but you didn't get any?
2. Do you think Brenna will help the next time she is asked? Would you?
3. What surprises do you think God may have in store for those people who respond to His call when they are asked?

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Activity: HELP

Materials Need: Drawing paper (and/or coloring pages depicting a child helping someone) and crayons/markers/colored pencils. Dum-dum lollipops.

Ask the class to draw (or color) pictures of themselves helping others in God's name. Once they get engrossed in their work, quietly ask individual children if they would help you with a project (sorting crayons/markers, taking out the trash, cleaning up a room, etc.). If they immediately stop their work and say "Yes", take them to the project and give them a lollipop. If they do not, they do not get a lollipop.