

# Sunday, June 26, 2022 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

## First Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

*1 Kings 19 tells what God did for Elijah after he became totally discouraged after the victory over the prophets of Baal. Elijah had no problem facing 450 prophets of Baal and 400 priests of Asherah, but after being threatened by Jezebel he became totally spooked.*

*What kind of difficulties, opposition, and threats can you handle with no problem? Which ones are more than you can handle and leave you totally spooked?*

1-3 - Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done. Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then Elijah was afraid; he got up and fled for his life.

4-5 - Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die. "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep.

### 1. God provided nourishment and rest

5-8 - An angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up and ate and drank. Then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

*When in your life were some problems or circumstances completely too much for you because you had not been receiving adequate food and rest?*

### 2. God corrected his perspective

9-10 - Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

*13-14 - Elijah says word for word the exact same thing after the wind, earthquake, fire, and sound of sheer silence when God asked the exact same question, "What are you doing here?"*

18 - God: "I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

*When have you viewed things as far worse than they actually are? When has God needed to correct your perspective? How did He do that?*

### 3. God gave him important work to do

15-16 - Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel."

*Have you ever felt that there was nothing important and valuable left for you to do?*

#### **4. God gave him a companion and a friend**

16-17 - You shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

*When in your life did you most need a friend?*

#### **5. Elijah experienced the presence of God**

11-13 – God said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him.

*When have you experienced God as being like a great wind – like an earthquake – like a fire – like a sound of sheer silence (or a still, small voice)?*

19-21 - So (Elijah) set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him. Elijah threw his mantle over him. Elisha took the yoke of oxen and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah and became his servant.

*There was no way that Elisha was going to go back to plowing. The equipment was burned and the oxen were dead. And they were not only dead but eaten.*

*Cf. Hernan Cortez, who burned his boats after landing in Mexico (1519)*

*For King and Country – “So light a match, leave the past, burn the ships, don't you look back”*

*Cf. Jesus in Luke 9: 62 - “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

*Vs. John 21: 1-3 - Simon Peter to six other disciples - “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

#### **Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

13-14 – You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

15 - If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

*Cf. James and John (the Sons of Thunder) in Luke 9: 51-56 when some Samaritans would not receive Jesus because His face was set towards Jerusalem - “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.*

16-17 - Live by the Spirit and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.

19-21 - The works of the flesh vs. 22 - The fruit of the Spirit