

13th Sunday Ordinary Time C

- Call to Discipleship
 - First Reading: Elijah throws cloak over Elisha (A sign he is to succeed him)
He's allowed to go say goodbye to his family
 - Second Reading Jesus' call *exceeds* this example in the OT
Disciple asks "Let me go bury by father"
Jesus says "Let the dead bury the dead – Proclaim the Kingdom"

Kind of harsh – but there are two interesting points

1. Jesus is going to Jerusalem & nothing's going to distract Him– He is ALL IN
 - There will be no excuses
 - He can't be bothered by Samaritans that don't accept Him
 - He doesn't have time to indulge James & John with lightning
 - He needs only 1 thing – loyal followers to proclaim the Kingdom - *after His Mission is complete*
2. God's call typically comes in the day to day ordinary things of life
 - Elisha in 1st reading was plowing the fields like any other day
 - David was guarding the sheep ***God calls us to do powerful things***
 - Gideon was threshing wheat like any other day ***in the day to day***
 - Matthew was collecting taxes like any other day
 - Simon and Andrew were cleaning their nets *This brings us to Gospel*

Our life journey has brought us
to this place & time - now what

How can I be a better Christian **TODAY?**

Jesus says 'follow me' – to us – **TODAY** – now what?

The answer is in GAL

“For freedom Christ set us free to stand firm and not submit again to the yoke of slavery”.

He is talking about **SIN** - Christ set us free from slavery to sin **NOW WHAT?**

“You were called for freedom brothers and sisters - don't use this freedom as opportunity for the flesh, but to serve one another in love”

As Americans we put a lot of stock into FREEDOM.

How do we use that freedom?

I am free to skip church on Sunday – or not – My choice, my freedom

I am free to be Pro-Choice or Pro-Life – My choice, my freedom

I am free to love who I want and hate who I want – My choice, freedom

“You were called for freedom brothers and sisters – to serve one another in love”

Are we using our freedom as an opportunity to love?

NOT necessarily in some great glorious action – in the day to day walk of life

Jesus calls us to follow Him – not tomorrow - TODAY

- For us to go ALL IN with love and be truly free