

13th Sunday Ordinary Time A

Intro

- Over time I have shared about import of our personal relationship with JC
- How – back in our cell its important for us to have a private one on one relationship with J and that is true
- God calls each of us, one by one, in a uniquely personal way → an intimate relationship with Him that is all our own
- Today's worship is going to take us beyond that
- In today's readings we are going to hear
 - Teachings from J
 - An example from the prophet Elisha
 - A teaching from St. Paul

That ALL tell us to go
beyond ourselves and our
personal relationship with J

TO FIND THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS FOR US

LET US PRAY

2KINGS

Elisha is the prophet that takes over from Elijah

Remember:

Elijah was a great prophet – many mighty deeds affirming the power of God

Nears death and Elisha is pointed out as his successor

Elijah is taken up into heaven in a flaming chariot and Elisha takes over

Picks up Elijah's stole, parts the water of the Jordan - all know he has power of Elijah

Ministry continues

- Now then, there was a married couple who followed Elisha's ministry
 - Prayerful, good, prominent – they decide to do something for Elisha
 - NB– prayer life is good – but they had to do something (fruit of prayer)
 - READ IT

Watch what happens

- Elisha serves as prophet – they see this – they understand his import
- They offer him food – then a room – a bed, table, chair, lamp (Charity)
- Then Elisha responds to their charity with thanks and a SON
- PRAYER + ACTION = FRUIT
- As Christians we have an example of how this works in **the WHEEL**

- How blessed are we - how blessed was this couple

THAT IS WHY PS89 is next PS89 - READ IT

- “Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord”
 - How blessed are we – JOY
 - “The promises of the Lord I will sing forever” - - - throughout the PS
 - LAST STANZA “For to the Lord belongs my shield”
 - A shield is used to cover us, protect us (EPH shield of faith)
 - As Christians we say we are covered by the blood of J
 - J's blood is our shield, our redemption
 - ROM – St Paul says we're baptized into Christ's death and rise
 - Under water, we rise up – death to life – JOY! READ IT

- A few weeks ago there were inmates baptized in the NSJ
 - A pool was brought in
 - They were held under water, then raised up
 - Paul “You were buried with Him through Baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised up, we too might live in newness of life”
 - What does that mean – to LIVE in newness of life? THAT'S THE ACTION SPOKE
 - (last sentence) “You too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God” ACTION

- In GOSPEL – Jesus is going to bring ACTION to a whole different level
 - MT's Gospel Jesus tells the Apostles the “Conditions of Discipleship” **READ**
 - Pretty radical stuff
 - Let me tell you a story about uncle Henry's farm
 - I show up, sophomore in HS, new work boots, overalls
 - Setting a fence post Arnold drops a post in a puddle
 - Henry “Did you do that on purpose?” YUP
 - We worked faster once he wasn't worried about new jeans
 - What is getting in the way of you following J?
 - J says whatever it is, chuck it – even if its family.
 - J says to follow me, take up your cross
 - (First time CROSS is in MT)
 - Its about our CROSSES IN LIFE not His
 - Then J shifts to what we DO, and our reward
 - Whoever receives you, receives me
 - Whoever receives a prophet
 - Whoever receives a righteous man
 - Whoever gives a cup of water
 - Each is rewarded for what they DO – their ACTIONS
 - We are in the NSJ
 - What we DO here makes a difference
 - It makes a difference in life on the unit
 - BUT it makes a difference in YOU
 - Are you a disciple of JESUS?

Do you want to be?

- Chuck whatever is getting in the way
- Family, Gang, friends – chuck it
- Then live it
- IF YOU DO – Jesus says
- “Surely he will not lose his reward”