

**The Cost of Discipleship  
(13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C)**

**1 Kings 19:16, 19-21—Elisha leaves his Family to Follow Elijah**

1. Prophet: “you shall anoint” a “prophet” (Hebrew *nabi* ) in “your place” (19:16)
2. Elijah: “The LORD is my God” (Hebrew *’elijahu*)
3. Elisha: “My God saves” (Hebrew *’elisha* )
4. Succession: Elijah “cast his mantle upon him” (19:19)
5. Family: “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you” (19:20)
6. Plowing: Elisha was called by Elijah while he was *plowing* (19:19-21)

**Psalm 16—You are My Inheritance, Lord**

1. Inheritance: “the LORD” is “my chosen portion” and “my cup” and “my lot” (v. 5)

**Galatians 5:1, 13-18—The Spirit and the Flesh**

1. Freedom: “freedom” to “walk by the Spirit” (5:16)

**Luke 9:51-62—The Zeal of James and John and the Cost of Discipleship**

1. Ascension: the days for Jesus to be “received up”; set his face “to Jerusalem” (9:51)
2. The Way to Jerusalem: “the way” (Greek *hodos*) to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-19:27)
3. Samaritans: who are they?
  - a. Samaria: capital of the northern kingdom (captured by Assyria) (2 Kings 15)
  - b. Samaritans: Descendants of pagan Assyrian invaders (2 Kings 17)
  - c. Syncretism: set up a rival Temple to YHWH at Gerizim (cf. John 4:20)
  - d. Tension and Conflict with Jews/Jerusalem (cf. John 4:9)
4. James and John: “Do you want us to bid fire come down from heaven?” (10:54)
  - a. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. Gen 19)
  - b. Elijah calls down “fire” from heaven to destroy his enemies (2 Kings 1:9-16)
5. Great than Elijah: the cost of discipleship is greater now
  - a. Itinerancy: “the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head” (9:58)
  - b. Bury the Dead: necessary duty of Jewish law (Tob 4:3; 6:15; *b. Ber.* 18a)
  - c. Home/Field: don’t “look back” after hand to “the plow” (cf. 1 Kings 19:19-21)
  - d. Old Testament: compare Lot’s wife (cf. Gen 19:17, 26)

**The Living Tradition**

Basil the Great: “A person who wishes to become the Lord’s disciple must repudiate a human obligation, however honorable it may appear, if it slows us ever so slightly in giving wholehearted obedience we owe to God.” (Basil the Great, *On Baptism* 1.1.; trans. in A. Just, *Luke*, 169)

Cyril of Alexandria: “We learn from this that the fear of God is to be set even above the reverence and love due to parents. The law of Moses, in the first place, commanded that

you shall love the Lord God with all your soul, all your might, and all your heart. It put as second to it the honor due to parents, saying, “Honor your father and the your mother.” (Cyril of Alexandria, *Commentary on Luke, Homily 58*; trans. in A. Just, *Luke*, 169).

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection (13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C)

1. What is the difference between the meaning of the names Elijah and Elisha in Hebrew that are so often confused in English? Who is the master? Who the disciple?

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2. Who were the Samaritans, and why were there such tension between them and the Jews of Jerusalem and Galilee?

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3. Why does Jesus say “Let the dead bury their dead”?

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### For Further Study

1. Arthur A. Just, Jr. *Luke*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament III. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003. Pp. 168-69
2. Pablo Gadenz. *The Gospel of Luke*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. Pp. 195-98.