



Monday, February 13, 2012

**READ-** The Old Testament: || Kings 2:1-12

In this story of the passing of Elijah's prophetic power to his successor, Elisha's love, loyalty, obedience, and faith are rewarded as his request for a "double share" of Elijah's spirit is granted. He had been with Elijah during many difficult times and knew that those same challenges lay ahead for him in assuming Elijah's role as prophet to the kings of Israel.

**REFLECT-**

- The Holy Spirit can empower each of us to do things which we never imagined possible if we have faith and trust that God will provide. Have you, like Elisha, asked for the power of the Spirit?

**PRAY-**

God of the whirlwind and fire, use me for your purposes. Help me to be open to the power of your Spirit and to be obedient to your will. Amen.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

**READ-** The Epistle: || Corinthians 4:3-6

Paul writes this after the Corinthian church has been divided by some new teachers who are critical of Paul's message and point out his imprisonment as evidence of his waning authority. Paul emphasizes that his only objective is proclaiming the resurrected Christ as their salvation and begs that they keep their focus on the gospel rather than allegiances to various self-proclaimed prophets and teachers.

**REFLECT-**

- How easily our heads may be turned by those who tell us what we want to hear about the gospel of Christ. Preachers who promise miraculous healing or wealth and prosperity may tempt us astray from Christ's message of sacrificial love and obedience. Our focus must be on Christ - his teaching and example – so that we stay on the good path and serve him faithfully.

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to rely on the words of scripture, prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that I may discern your truth. Amen.

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

**READ-** The Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Jesus went up to the mountaintop taking his three most trusted disciples where they witnessed him talking with Moses and Elijah, who represented the Law and the Prophets to the Jewish people. Their appearance was other-worldly and then the voice of God identifies Jesus as his Son. The disciples were confused and afraid, yet awestruck.

**REFLECT-**

- Remarkably, Jesus instructed the disciples not to tell anyone of this experience until after he had "risen from the dead" (vs. 9)? Can you imagine how it must have felt for Peter, James and John to keep that kind of experience to themselves? And imagine how puzzled they must have been about Jesus being "raised from the dead". There was so much they did not yet understand.

**PRAY-**

Lord, we thank you for your holy scriptures which tell us miraculous stories of your unceasing and unchanging love for us. Thank you for sending your "Beloved Son". Amen.

Thursday, February 16, 2012

**READ-** The Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

This psalm reminds us of God's great power and the coming judgment each of us will face in which God will hold us accountable for our faithfulness or our disobedience.

**REFLECT-**

- Most of us don't like to think about our accountability to God for the way we live. But this psalm reminds us that we will all be held responsible for living according to God's will.

**PRAY-**

Author of all creation, I am grateful that you care for me. Help me to keep my face turned toward you and help me to be obedient to your will for my life. Amen.

Friday, February 17, 2012

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse:** || Corinthians 4:5

**For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as slaves for Jesus' sake.**

Overcoming our own selfish desires is a key component in our journey in becoming more like Jesus. In seeking to share the love of Christ with others, we must be mindful of keeping our ego in check. Any act of love or service we offer to others must be done to glorify God. Look for opportunities today to quietly offer some act of kindness, compassion or blessing to someone who crosses your path. With that act, if circumstances allow, sharing words of God's love for that person can offer tremendous comfort and encouragement. A simple "God bless you" spoken with love and sincerity in concert with your act of kindness or compassion gives glory to the One whom we serve.