

Covenant Life

- We are having an in-person Gathering **TODAY** at 4pm and will also meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in July, 10th and 24th.
- Our 50th Anniversary Team is seeking members to plan our celebration coming up on March 24-26, 2023. Gretchen Montgomery is leading this effort. Contact her to let her know your desire to participate on the team at gretchenannem@gmail.com.
- Everyone is strongly encouraged to take advantage of the presentations from our Day of Renewal and the blessed insights of Fr. Michal Markiewicz. A special page was created for you to listen [here](#).
- 2022 is a year to recommit to our covenant...please review a simplified version [here](#) to discern your response. Sharon Harman shared on Desiring to receive and exercise the Spiritual Gifts which you can listen to [here](#). Other sharings are at the bottom of our home page GodsDelight.org.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

As I reflected on the first reading today [1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21](#) I must confess being a little confused by the exchange. Elijah heard God tell him to call Elisha to follow him as prophet. Elijah located Elisha plowing a field and threw his cloak over his shoulders indicating a specific call for Elisha to follow him as his disciple. Elisha responds by leaving the oxen, running after Elijah, and saying "Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and I will follow you." What is curious to me is Elijah's response...*"Go back! Have I done anything to you?"*

What did Elijah exactly mean? You may have a better insight than me, but I wonder if it was a rhetorical question specifically intended to provoke Elisha into a dramatic, life changing decision. Elijah was presenting Elisha with God's call and giving him the choice to look forward or backward.

It is unclear to me from the reading whether Elisha really kissed his father and mother goodbye, but what is clear, is that he slaughtered his animals and burned

the plowing equipment to cook the meat to serve to his people. He was making a clear decision to move forward!

It is interesting to note that it appears Elisha was well off given the scripture states he was plowing with twelve oxen, a significant number. It also implies that he slaughtered them all, which was quite a sacrifice! All of this points to the extent of his response to God's call through the words of Elijah. He was "All In" giving up his entire livelihood and looking only forward to serving God!

Are we All In? Are we willing to let go of everything in our lives besides Jesus?

In the Gospel today [Lk 9:51-62](#) we actually hear Jesus refer to this same passage when, after calling two people, they responded with the words "Lord, let me go first and bury my father" and "first let me say farewell to my family at home." Jesus' words are strong and clear *"No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."* Jesus is warning us about attachments and the things that can hold us back. I thought back to our [Day of Renewal](#) and many points that Fr. Michal made.

I end with the same question again for us each to ponder and respond to ...Are we All In? Are we willing to let go of everything in our lives besides Jesus?

Let us pray. "I do want to say Yes to You. I want to give up everything to follow You. I let go of anything and everything that might hold me back. I focus my sole attention on You. I recommit myself to You Jesus and making You known. Holy Spirit, free me of anything that might hold me back. I choose You today and every day. Amen."

God Bless,
David