

Readings and Sermon – Youth Sunday; June 30th, 2019

The First Reading: 2 KINGS 2:1-2, 6-14

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

The Second Lesson: LUKE 9:51-62

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

For the first reading, I can think of two instances where I have had someone taken away and I believe I have received part of each of their spirits.

The Sermon

Preacher: Mr. Henry M. Carter

Taiki is my best friend who moved far away toward the end of 2nd grade. I was going to a new school for 3rd grade. I had to be patient when I went to the new school. Because of that patience, I made new friends quickly. I was worried from May 15th to the start of the next school year, that I wouldn't make new friends. I made new friends quickly because Taiki had left some of his spirit with me. Those attributes that I received were kindness and being open minded. He would always help other people up if they fell. If we were playing a sport, he would always include people.

Robert was my friend and he was always positive even though he was born with a bad disease in his heart. He was very sick most of his short life. I wasn't the only one who cared for him. Robert needed a lot of people to care for him. Robert died when we were in 2nd grade.

2nd grade was a rough year! For the three years I got to be his friend, he would always have a smile on his face. I never saw Robert frown. He cared for everybody and that helped me care for my Nonnie like I'm taking care of the finest ruby, I try to keep it as shiny as possible. His spirit will always be with me.

From the Gospel, I made the connection that two years ago, during a soccer camp, someone did something that embarrassed me and I took my anger out on that person. There was a consequence and I have learned that in the real world, like for me in middle school coming up, you need to use your words or walk away and try not to think about getting even, not everyone will be remorseful, so don't expect it. Let your heart control you, not your anger or your fist. Get over it, move on like Jesus tells James and John to. Don't look back.