



Handout for week of 6-24-19 Luke 9: 51-62 & 1 Kgs. 19: 16b. 19-21

www.theark1.com

Connie May © 5/25/19

Drawing with permission by Fr. Robert Beck

Fr. Robert Beck ([subscription](#))

[More Fr. Beck](#) (With permission)

Stone, Naomi. [Come out into the open air of Love](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [The Struggle to will the one thing.](#)

[New Melleray Abby Homilies](#) 6/16/16

[How to start a movement](#)

1 Kgs. 19: 16b and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth; and Elijah passed over unto him, and cast his mantle upon him. 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said: 'Let me, I pray thee,

kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee.' And he said unto him: 'Go back; for what have I done to thee?' 21 And he returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

COMMENTARY:

Elisha was a man who sought to obey God and to get himself in a position where he could best serve Him. This led to him becoming a prophet. There he was used to heal people and do the work of the Lord. Because of the power that God gave him he easily could have used this to profit for himself. Instead he was an example of purity and righteousness. When one of his servants sought to use his healing of Naaman the Leper from Syria for his own profit, Elisha used this to teach him a lesson.

When the Prophet Elijah was on his way to Damascus from Sinai he found Elisha in the fields, ploughing twelve yoke of oxen. He went over to him, threw a rough mantle over his shoulders symbolically denoting him to be his successor. Dramatically, Elisha killed the oxen that were just doing his work and cooked their meat over the wood of his plough. After a quick feast, he left to become Elijah's attendant.

Nothing more is heard about Elisha until several years later when it was time for Elijah to "retire". Knowing that the Lord was about to take him Elijah tested his servant's devotion by asking him three times to remain while he went on in turn to Bethel, Jericho and then over the Jordan. Well aware of what was about to happen, Elijah refused to leave his master.

Elisha means God is Salvation. Like Elijah, Elisha was a prophet of northern Israel. He was anointed prophet by Elijah (1 Kings 19:16-21) and prophesied during the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz and Joash, a period of sixty years. When Elijah was taken up into Heaven Elisha became his successor.

Elisha performed many miracles. This included bringing a child back from the dead (II Kings 4), healing a leper and cursing some kids who mocked him so that a two bears mauled over forty of them (II Kings 2).

Key Verses they are mentioned in:

The life and works of Elisha can be found in I Kings 19; 2 Kings 2-9; 13:14-21.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser talks about God's voice [God's Voice as Invitation](#). Click on this link and enjoy his wisdom.