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13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C
Spps: Jun 27, 2010
1Kings 19: 16bf; Gal 5: 1, 13f; Lk 9: 51f.

The Scriptures challenge us
to prayerfully consider today---
to what *degree* we dedicate
our love and freedom
to the call of discipleship?
The definition of *disciple* from the Catechism CCC
is: “*Those who accepted Jesus’ message to follow him.* .
.”
“*Jesus [gave] his disciples. . . a share in his mission,
his joy, and his sufferings.*”
A couple of key phrases here:
“*accepted*” the call to follow---
to “*share*” in Christ’s mission, joy, suffering.

It is good to note for ourselves
how much we wish to “accept” and “share.”
In actuality, to *accept* the message to follow
is to be subservient.
To *share* is to be *immersed* in Christ’s true work---
and the ups and downs that go with it.

To be a disciple of Christ
is to join Him in His self-less-ness.
It typically requires giving up something---
it requires making a sacrifice.
A good part of the time,
it calls for extraordinary responses
within the midst of ordinary experiences.

In our first reading from 1st Kings,
when Elisha wants to say goodbye
to his mother and father
before accepting the role as Elijah's successor---
Elijah’s reaction seems both harsh and mysterious:
“*Go back! Have I done anything to you?*”
[What is that?]

And in the Gospel,
the response of Jesus is puzzling
to the man who wishes to follow him,
but wants to bury his father first---
Jesus said, “*Let the dead bury their dead.*”
To another would-be disciple
who wants to say goodbye to his family,
Jesus replied,
“*No one who sets a hand to the plow
and looks to what was left behind
is fit for the kingdom of God.*”

What are these Scriptures trying to get across to us?

These three scenes happened in everyday life:
What was to become *extraordinary* journeys of faith
didn’t start with peels of thunder and lightning---
but started in the midst of common experiences.
*Elisha was plowing away---
doing his *ordinary* work,
when Elijah comes and placed his cloak over him,
as the sign to carry on the mission.
*And in the Gospel, the disciple traveling with Jesus
says that he will follow Him wherever He goes.
Jesus replies that he has nowhere to lay his head---
in other words, the life of discipleship he offers
is a different one—
one filled with uncertainty.
*The two other disciples who wish to follow Jesus,
both express a desire
to keep one foot in their former life---
one to bury his father,
and the other to bid farewell to his family.
Jesus’ response is not so much telling them
to ignore their families,
but following him means *leaving the past behind*.
It means entering into a new life—a new existence---
a life of proclaiming the kingdom of God.

Elisha and the disciples in the Gospel
were not the only ones called out to discipleship
in the midst of everyday life.
Remember that **Moses and David** were called
while tending their flocks;
Simon and Andrew were fishing---
and **Matthew** was in the midst of tax collections.
None of these were already levitating, or anything,
when the Lord summoned them.

This is one moment for each of us to realize
that our life of baptism/immersion into Christ
means to *follow* Him,
and it calls for **our** extraordinary responses
within the midst of our ordinary experiences.

God is, in fact, in the midst of our everyday.
Everything we have---
every experience of good---
our very lives held into existence---
are of God’s hand.

To live our happiest and most fulfilled life
is to follow what Christ has revealed as His will
for *all* of us---the body of faithful—
through His church---

and to seek His will for each of us *individually*.

With all this, here's something to keep in mind,
as pointed out by John Paul II.

It is important to **study** to understand who God is,
but not to be forgotten---

“**training** and **spiritual** life.”

The learning, but also the doing, and the praying
lead us to greater knowledge and understanding of
Christ.

(The History of the Church: Didache Series, p357).

We make contact with God
through our everyday experiences.

Are we aware of God in the everyday?

Do we respond as true disciples?