

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

June 30, 2019

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:16b, 19–21 + Galatians 5:1, 13–18 + Luke 9:51–62

Reflection by: Mary Lanni, OPA

The readings this week may challenge our idea of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The choices Jesus presents in the Gospel are very stern and unfeeling because they are really a warning. Following him is a total commitment, an “all in,” and may require that at some point we will have to choose between something to which we are very attached and the Word he has given us. Will our faith in Jesus be up to it?

Fortunately we have ample evidence from Scripture that

becoming a follower of Jesus is just that. It is a process, an unfolding. It doesn't happen all at once. Even Jesus' well-loved and handpicked friends like Peter were not always steadfast followers. Their fear during the storm on the lake caused Jesus to accuse them of “little faith.” They needed to open themselves to the Spirit and trust that Jesus was who he said he was. Only then did they gain the courage and desire to be the radical followers that they finally became.

We call ourselves Christians but we hold on to our biases and prejudices, to our egos and self-centered attitudes and feel justified. A close review of our attachments might show us that we have veered from the path of discipleship. Fortunately again, there are no time limits or barriers to rejoining the path—just welcome.

