

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**June 26, 2023**

**THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a**

**Matthew 10: 37-42**

**Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11**

**1. 2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a**

- The Shunammite woman reaches out to Elisha and has dinner with him. She suggests to her husband that they provide a room for him so that he can visit.
- She recognizes him as a prophet and a holy man of God. She provides a room for him out of respect.
- Elisha's servant, Gehazi, acts on behalf of Elisha. He delivers Elisha's message asking her what he can do for her in return. Can he put in a good word for her to the king or the army commander? She refuses her offer because she is among family and friends and has support.
- Elisha still wants to repay her kindness and asks Gehazi what he can do for her. Gehazi reports that she is childless, and her husband is old.
- Elisha promises her that next year she will have a child. Elisha's promise to her is fulfilled and she gives birth to a child.

**2. Matthew 10: 37-42**

- The Messiah was expected to bring peace. Indeed, Jesus does offer the peace of a right relationship with God, but some refuse it and that causes division in families and among friends. (Verses 34-36)
- There was a Semitic idiom of contrasting love and hate as a way of expressing preference. We must choose Jesus and let all others be subordinate. If we make Jesus the number one concern of our life, all other relationships will fall into place.
- Jesus is deserving of our love and devotion. If we do not give him our full devotion, then we are not worthy of him. We cannot give him second place.
- Life can also be translated as "self." If we seek to find self on our own and apart from God, we will lose our life. If we let go of our self, if we let go and let God, then we will find self.
- The apostles/disciples are sent by Jesus out in mission just as Jesus was sent by God to save the world. We too are sent as the apostles/disciples were sent. It is a dynamic action of sending. We are always being sent.
- The apostles/disciples represented Jesus and could act on his behalf, just as Jesus was the representative of his Father and acted on his behalf. We are also representatives of the apostles/disciples, Jesus, and the Father.
- Those who receive a prophet and a righteous man as representatives of Jesus and the Father will receive a corresponding reward.

- Not only are the important members of the community representatives but even the “little ones” or the ordinary men and women who followed Jesus. Everyone embodies Jesus and his Father.
- We do not have to do great things, even a cup of cold water given to one of the ordinary members of the church will be worthy of a reward.

### **3. Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11**

- Paul refutes claims that the gospel he is preaching leads to sin because if God is so merciful and forgives everything, then it does not matter if we sin.
- In baptism, we die with Christ, and we rise with Christ. The fulness of our dying and rising in Christ will come with the return of Christ, but even now we have the first fruits, the down payment on our salvation. Even now we have the grace of God to help us resist the power of sin. Our baptism is real. We truly have died with Christ, and we rise with him. So, we have died to sin. We want to have no part of sin. We strive to live the life of the resurrection with Jesus.
- V. 4: Through baptism we live in the newness of life, the resurrection of Jesus.
- V. 8: If we have died with Christ---and died to sin---then truly we will rise with him. Even now, we have the hope of resurrection.
- V. 9-11: Just as sin and death have no power over Jesus after his resurrection, so too sin has no power over us. Sin only has the power that we give it.