

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.
— Winston Churchill

Today's reading ends at verse 12. But something funny is going on in verse 16. The prophet Elijah has just disappeared. A new prophet stands in the wings. A crowd of 50 preachers has witnessed the terrifying exodus as Elijah roared into the heavens in a chariot of fire and disappeared from view.

So, where was he? Whispers and rumors ran rampant through the community. Then someone said, "It may be that the spirit of the LORD has *caught him up and thrown him down* on some mountain or into some valley." Caught up and thrown down!

The crowd asks the newly minted prophet Elisha for permission to search for him. Elisha is facing his first decision as the head guy. He says no. But they persist and Elisha relents. Off they go on a fool's errand.

Elisha thinks they're nuts. The mountains behind Jericho are high, forbidding and vast. Where would one start? And across the Jordan it's not much different. What are a ragtag gaggle of preachers going to do? Start a grid search? Those preachers looked for their old mentor for three days and couldn't find him. At last, they returned to Elisha and said, "We couldn't find him." And Elisha uncharitably says, "I told you so."

The lessons for our consideration are:

1. Sometimes it's hard to let go and say goodbye;
2. Sometimes it is hard to accept new leadership and change;
3. Don't run after what God has removed;
4. Don't ask for permission unless you're prepared to obey;
5. Don't waste time on fruitless endeavors.

Although these prophets thought Elijah had been caught up and thrown down, they themselves were the ones who'd been caught up in their pride, and inevitably, thrown down in humiliation.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Thank you for the prophets, pastors and preachers among us who seek to warn, guard and feed us along life's way. Amen.

*Blessings on Transfiguration Sunday,
Live @ Pastor Ben Motz, Steven Sava, & Ethan*

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Wishing you the abundance of God's love on Valentine's Day!

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Exodus 1-4
- Monday:** Exodus 5-7
- Tuesday:** Exodus 8-10
- Wednesday:** Exodus 11-13
- Thursday:** Exodus 14-17
- Friday:** Exodus 18-20
- Saturday:** Psalms 13-15

Verse to Remember
I am the LORD your God, ...
you shall have no other gods
before me.
 —Exodus 20:2-3

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

The Life of Moses

DIRECTIONS: This week we begin readings in Exodus, and Moses is the prominent figure in this book. This puzzle reveals the name of a very important person in his life. Use the grid on the right to fill in the empty boxes on the left, which — when filled out correctly — will reveal the name of this person. Remember, only one of the letters derived from the top or the bottom clue is the correct one. We've done one box for you.

C2	D3	B1	D3	B4	C5
			I		
A5	E4	B2	E5	D4	A5



	A	B	C	D	E
1	G	R	T	J	E
2	P	K	C	B	W
3	Y	X	F	I	H
4	U	N	Z	A	O
5	M	D	S	V	L

Secret name? _____

INCOMPLETE PHRASES: Directions: Are you familiar with common American idioms and phrases? If so, this activity should be “a piece of cake.”

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A drop in the _____. 2. A diamond in the _____. 3. Barking up _____. 4. Abandon hope _____. 5. A multitude _____. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The ball is _____. 7. A horse, a horse, _____. 8. A labor _____. 9. Been there, _____. 10. A house divided _____. |
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Answers to INCOMPLETE PHRASES: 1. bucket, 2. rough, 3. the wrong tree, 4. ye who enter here, 5. of sins, 6. in your court, 7. my kingdom for a horse!, 8. of love, 9. done that, 10. against itself cannot stand.

Answer to Life of Moses: (spelled backwards): MAIRIM