

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

The reading in 2 Kings felt fresh to me today. I noticed Elisha's desire to stay close. Was it because he had knowledge of his Master's departure?

We know that when the prophets came out from Bethel, and Jericho to meet them, his response to them was, "Yes, I know. Keep silent!" When they spoke of the LORD taking his Master away.

I wonder why he asked them to keep silent. Perhaps he felt the same sadness that the disciples felt when Jesus told them of His death.

Three times Elijah says, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me." And three times Elisha responds, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."

And the story goes on.

Staying close even though you're uncertain of the outcome may often be misconstrued as stubbornness, or even disobedience by some.

All that Elisha knew was that the LORD was taking his Master and friend away. He didn't know how or exactly when but, he chose to stay as close as possible. Perhaps his thoughts were, "If he goes, I'm going too!"

Of course, the passage doesn't say that. However, it does say, (because of his tenacity, his faithfulness to GOD, and love for his Master); he received twice as much as Elijah had.

A Double Anointing! The Mantle fell on him!

Fast forward to Peter and James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. (Metamorphosis as Rev Howard pointed out to us). Wow! Look that up!!

Right before their eyes stands Elijah, Jesus, and Moses.

The Promise, the Law, and the One who fulfilled both!

Like Elisha to Elijah these three were part of the inner circle. They had "A special place in the council of the disciples."

They were Jesus's closest friends it seems. Not any better, just closer.

There's that word again, "Closer."

They wanted to stay right there on that mountain! And why wouldn't you? The two most important men of all time in Jewish tradition were standing there right in front of them! Moses the Lawmaker who lived to be 120 years old and was buried by GOD Himself no one knew or knows where. Elijah, who represents promise and was taken up in a whirlwind to Heaven, alive yet! And Jesus, the Son of GOD, the Promised Messiah!

The Bible says, they were terrified but from what we see, they wanted to stay. Oh to stay on that mountain!

But GOD appears! Not in His fullness lest they die but, covered in a cloud as in days gone by and, He speaks. "This is My Son, the Beloved; **listen to Him!**"

The cloud lifts and there stands Jesus, alone.

On the way down the mountain Jesus orders them to tell no one about what they had seen until **after** the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

I'm sensing the need to watch these days. To stay close and listen. There are a lot of voices speaking as Reverend Hynes pointed out on Sunday. There are a lot of happenings and distractions around us to grab our attention. Staying focused, and hearing His voice is difficult.

There's a word I refer to often and have it hanging on my wall to remind me. You'll find it at the end of the Psalm reading this week in the NKJV; **Selah** (Listen, Pause, and Reflect)

Father help us to Selah, (listen, pause, and reflect) on Your Word, whether spoken, read or sung in praise to You. Keep us close and draw us even closer. Help us to look up and understand that the heavens DO declare Your righteousness and Your Glory, and that the gospel is written there for us to see. Thank You for Your gift of grace and eternal life! In Jesus' Name! Amen!

Let the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is Judge. **Selah**