



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the First Reading from the Second Book of Kings we hear of the sacrifices made by the woman who welcomes the prophet Elisha. The woman in the scriptures has it in mind to prepare a comfortable room for when Elisha visits, he might have a place to stay. In turn the goodness of that woman is rewarded by the intercession of the prophet with God so that she might bear a child.

Jesus speaking to His Apostles in the tenth chapter of Matthew's gospel makes clear that to follow Him means He comes first. Even before one's own family or possessions. He tells His disciples, "He who seeks only himself brings himself to ruin, whereas he who brings himself to naught for me discovers who he is." He then refers to the Old Testament passage by promising blessings for anyone welcoming a prophet who comes in His name.

The readings presented today have a two-fold mandate for us. First, our intentions should always be directed at putting Christ first in our lives. Secondly, we need to recognize those sent to us by God and to welcome them as we would welcome Him. The Lord still sends prophets of sorts to us in order to communicate His will and bring hope to a lonely, difficult world.

Peace,

Fr. Robert