



13th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME YEAR C – June 30, 2019

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote on one occasion, "Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can." That's exactly what Elijah did to Elisha in the first reading today. He enabled him to do what he had the capacity to do.

That's what St. Paul did for the people in Galatia as we hear in the second reading today. And that's what Jesus did for the three people mentioned in the Gospel today.

Recall that wonderful story of the wizard of Oz. On her way to the Emerald City, Dorothy meets three friends - The scarecrow, the tin man and the lion.

The wizard gives them a seemingly impossible task to perform. They must capture the magic broomstick of the wicked witch and bring it to the wizard. In the process of doing that seemingly impossible task, the scarecrow discovers that he has a brain and he can think. The tin man discovers he has a heart and he can love. The lion discovers that he has courage and he is brave.

The wise old wizard had merely helped each of Dorothy's three friends discover what they already had. Jesus does the same thing for us.

When he asks us to put our hand to the plow and not look back, he's not asking us to abandon our families and our friends. He's asking us to be everything we have the capacity to be, by using all the gifts we already have.

We already have sanctifying and actual grace. We already have wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude and reverence for God. We already have faith, hope and charity. We already have prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. We already have the charisms that are uniquely our own.

What Jesus did for the three people in the gospel, he does for all of us if we allow him to do it. Jesus helps us to discover that we have all we need to follow him, move forward and not look back.

Someone once said, "He who lives in the past is already dead." Jesus doesn't want us to live in the past. That's why he asks us to follow him, move forward and let go of the past.

For a few moments in silence reflect on this. Are you living in the past?

**THE BEST WAY
TO LEAD OTHERS
IS TO FOLLOW
CHRIST**