

FRIDAY Week 10B

First Reading: 1Kg 19: 9a, 11-16;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 27: 8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14;

Gospel Reading: Mt 5: 27-32.

THEME: Called to be Other Christs

For the whole week we have been reading from the first Book of Kings about the life, toils and frustrations of the prophet Elijah. Everyone wants to see their work yield positive fruits. Elijah's work bore fruit after the Lord vindicated him as the true prophet of Israel and after he encountered the Lord in the silence of his meditations on Mount Horeb. The fruit of Elijah's toil is that some Israelites (including Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha) hearts were transformed such that they were worthy to be anointed into the service of the God.

Anointed people are special for the service of the Lord. Jesus for example is the anointed one of God, and Christos (meaning anointed) has become part of his name. Jesus the anointed One, the King, the priest and the Prophet, who announces the highest morality for his followers. The essence of today's gospel is a higher morality than in the Old Dispensation. When it comes to moral issues, Jesus Christ leaves no compromises.

Jesus gives the example of lustful thoughts, but the list can be extended to include other inner dispositions such as: Lack of trust on the neighbor or spouse, envy, suspicion of others, anger, etc. Anointed is our name. We too are called anointed ones, that is to say Other Christs. This is why Christ expects higher standards from us. He said, "be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" (Mt 5: 48).

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor