

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY: 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - C

1 Kings 19:16,19-21

Galatians 5:1,13-18

Luke 9:51-62

**Christ set us free, so that we should remain free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be fastened again to the yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1**

**Sequela Christi (following Christ)**

Our readings today call us to reflect on this **important phrase that characterizes the true identity of Christ. Sequela Christi is who and what true Christians are.** This is not just about literally walking behind Jesus, but **walking on his footprints.** In this way we let **his journey become our journey.** We are therefore identified with him, and are **intimately one with him in the Sequela Christi.**

The beginning of our second reading identifies the **freedom that Christ gives us, as our identity in Christ.** Once Christ has set us free, we are to **remain free at all times.** There is no turning back to the slavery we were once subjected to. In his letter to the Romans in chapter 6, **Saint Paul talks about us being slaves to sin prior to our baptism.**

Following Christ happens when we **hear his voice that calls us** to follow him. Like the first disciples we are called to leave everything and follow him. In simple terms, **all what we are to leave are the stumbling blocks towards following him.**

The latter part of our gospel passage is about the **two who were called, but had expressed conditions** that needed to be met before they could follow him. **Jesus vehemently opposed that.**

In our first reading we are given the example of **Elisha who promptly followed Elijah** he was to succeed as a prophet.

Our **Sequela Christi** is our guarantee of **remaining true** to the identity we assumed **at baptism: being set free from the slavery of sin.** The fact that we occasionally fall into sin is a painful reminder of how serious we take our true freedom in Christ. **We constantly choose to leave the footprints Christ has left behind for us. Straying from Christ** makes us vulnerable to the yoke of slavery, and thus we fall into sin. Our call is to **cling to Christ** so as to make sure that we **remain free from sin**, and are **protected from the evil one** who is constantly working towards taking our God given freedom away from us.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions.

*Have a wonderful day of the Lord (Sunday).*

*Fr Callistus*