

Reflections on 19th Sunday of Year 26A.

Mass: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13; Psalm 84; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33.

Jesus sends the disciples on a journey after the triumph of feeding so many, perhaps they were reluctant to leave as he 'made' them. Jesus needed some time alone with his Abba, in prayer. On their own the disciples are soon in trouble. No mention of prayer from them, just panic during storms. In the story of Ezekiel, he too has had a triumph in defeating the priests of Baal but now it is he who is on the run. He too is surrounded by storm, just when things were going well. God calls him out of the cave with gentleness. Jesus draws Peter with a simple word in the midst of his storm, 'come'. Ezekiel responds to continue his mission by passing on the prophetic gift to Elisha. Peter panics and has to learn the hard way that only trusting in Jesus can bring the journey to an end. What makes us step out in faith is the question for us today. Just what does faith mean for us? The question means just who are we attached to? Faith doesn't mean just believing statements in a book, it means a relationship that we are determined to stay faithful to. To hold fast in faith means holding on to our relationship with Jesus. To hold fast to him who holds fast to us.