

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah
up to heaven by a whirlwind,
Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

²Elijah said to Elisha,
'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.'

But Elisha said,
'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live,
I will not leave you.'
So they went down to Bethel.

⁶ Then Elijah said to him,
'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.'

But he said,
'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live,
I will not leave you.'

So the two of them went on.

⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went,
and stood at some distance from them,
as they both were standing by the Jordan.

⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up,
and struck the water;
the water was parted to the one side and to the other,
until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha,
'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.'

Elisha said,
'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.'

¹⁰He responded,
'You have asked a hard thing;
yet, if you see me
as I am being taken from you,
it will be granted you;
if not, it will not.'

¹¹As they continued walking and talking,
a chariot of fire and horses of fire
separated the two of them,
and Elijah ascended
in a whirlwind into heaven.

¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out,
'Father, father!
The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!'

But when he could no longer see him,
he grasped his own clothes
and tore them in two pieces.

¹³ He picked up the mantle of Elijah
that had fallen from him,
and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

¹⁴He took the mantle of Elijah
that had fallen from him,
and struck the water, saying,
'Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?'

When he had struck the water,
the water was parted to the one side and to the other,
and Elisha went over.

¹⁵ When the company of prophets who were at Jericho
saw him at a distance, they declared,
'The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.'

They came to meet him
and bowed to the ground before him.

¹⁶They said to him,
'See now, we have fifty strong men among your servants;
please let them go and seek your master;
it may be that the spirit of the LORD has caught him up
and thrown him down on some mountain or into some valley.'

He responded,
'No, do not send them.'

Luke 9:51-62

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him.

On their way
they entered a village of the Samaritans
to make ready for him;

⁵³but they did not receive him,
because his face was set towards Jerusalem.

⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said,
'Lord, do you want us to command fire
to come down from heaven and consume them?'

⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them.

⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

57 As they were going along the road,
someone said to him,
'I will follow you wherever you go.'

⁵⁸And Jesus said to him,
'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests;
but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

⁵⁹To another he said, 'Follow me.'

But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.'

⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead;
but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'

⁶¹Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord;
but let me first say farewell to those at my home.'

⁶²Jesus said to him,
'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back
is fit for the kingdom of God.'