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St. Luke's Episcopal Church ~ Anchorage, Kentucky  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 5) ~ June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>  
Luke 7:11-17 & I Kings 17:8-16

Can you sense it? Summer is upon us and you can just kind of feel it in the air. This time of year seems to invite us to sit back, slow down a bit, and take things a little more easily. This is a good thing, as life places so many demand upon us, does it not? It seems as though at times we go so quickly from doing one thing on to another we have seldom have the time to reflect upon or ponder things we have done. In fact there are times when our lives get so busy we can't even recall what we did yesterday, much less the day before. I have had more than one person who is retired say to me "My life is so busy now – I don't know how I ever found the time to work."

Because of our busy lifestyle, it is easy for us to lose sight of those precious & cherished moments that often lend the most meaning to our lives. This is not to infer that we don't value these moments, in fact many of us allow ourselves to be fully present at a given time and given situation, and this is surely an endearing quality. Nonetheless, sometimes it's necessary for us to take pause and ask ourselves "What really matters most in life?" Is it God, is it faith? Family? Friends? Success? Possessions? What matters most to you? (silence).

This can be a challenging question for us to answer because we tend to build layer, upon layer of worldly distractions within our lives, causing our spiritual vision to become blundered and skewed. Our eyes are - oh so subtly – can be taken off the "prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." as in the words of the Apostle Paul (Phil. 3:14).

Yet, here we are, faithfully and with all of the best of intentions, we come together in this place seeking... solidarity, solace, comradery, peace and love. In the midst of the chaos that is occurring within our world today, we find the peace of God in this place. In this place we are fed

with the spiritual food of the body and blood of Christ that fills us and sustains us as we move forward boldly as disciples of Jesus. Yes, we are called to be loving and kind, but we are also called to be bold –and when we depart from this place today, just as Elijah was emboldened to be obedient to God, we too are called to be emboldened by going out into the world shining the light of Christ.

Our Old Testament reading today speaks of the great prophet Elijah! Many of us recall Elijah as being with Moses upon Mt. Horeb during the Transfiguration of Jesus, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. But it is in the Book of I Kings that Elijah is first mentioned in the OT. Elijah was known for his boldness and tenacity in speaking out to a generation of people who worshipped Baal - the main god of the Canaanites in Old Testament times. Many prophets prophesied and wrote, Elijah boldly prophesied and acted, but wrote nothing. He was passionate about serving God, and he put his passion into action.

As is such a common theme throughout the scriptures,(both in the OT and the NT) we are continually reminded of God's desire for us to reach out to the poor and the oppressed. We are reminded of this as illustrated by Elijah going to the poor widow's home in Zaraphath seeking something to eat and drink, during time of drought. God not only provides food and drink for Elijah, but also an overabundance of food and drink for the widow and her son. Still today, God provides for our every need if we trust in Him, and trust in Him fully.

Yes, summer is upon us, and let's embrace this time of slowing down a bit, as this is important for our physical and emotional well-being. But I would encourage each of us to remain steadfast and bold in our faith and not fall prey to subtle complacency when it comes to those who are in great need. Example – EACM. Feed our local community (children).

