



## Our Parish Community

June 26, 2022

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21

Gal 5:1, 13-18

Lk 9:51-62

## Dear Padre,

**After Mass, someone told me she overheard some people speaking wrongly about me. She defended me but wouldn't say what was said, or by whom. This troubles me. How should I deal with it?**

**F**irst, consider why indulging in gossip is so prevalent. People leading uneventful lives often have an unhealthy interest in others' affairs, and they desire to gossip about it. Those who consider themselves to be poor conversationalists may gossip to feel important by imparting information that is seemingly in demand. Others resort to character assassinations out of jealousy or envy.

Because gossip easily spreads into a distortion of the truth, it can be, as Pope Francis said, "a plague more awful than COVID!" Some people permissibly spread gossip only when the truth of the rumor has been verified; for others, the truth of the matter is irrelevant. Regardless, when people gossip about us behind our backs—depriving us of our own input and version of the truth—we can feel victimized and defenseless.



Yet we aren't completely powerless. Just because something is perceived as the truth about us doesn't mean we have to accept it as such. (Nevertheless, in cases when we know what is said, we should honestly ask ourselves if there's any truth to it.) While we have no control over what people say about us, we can ultimately

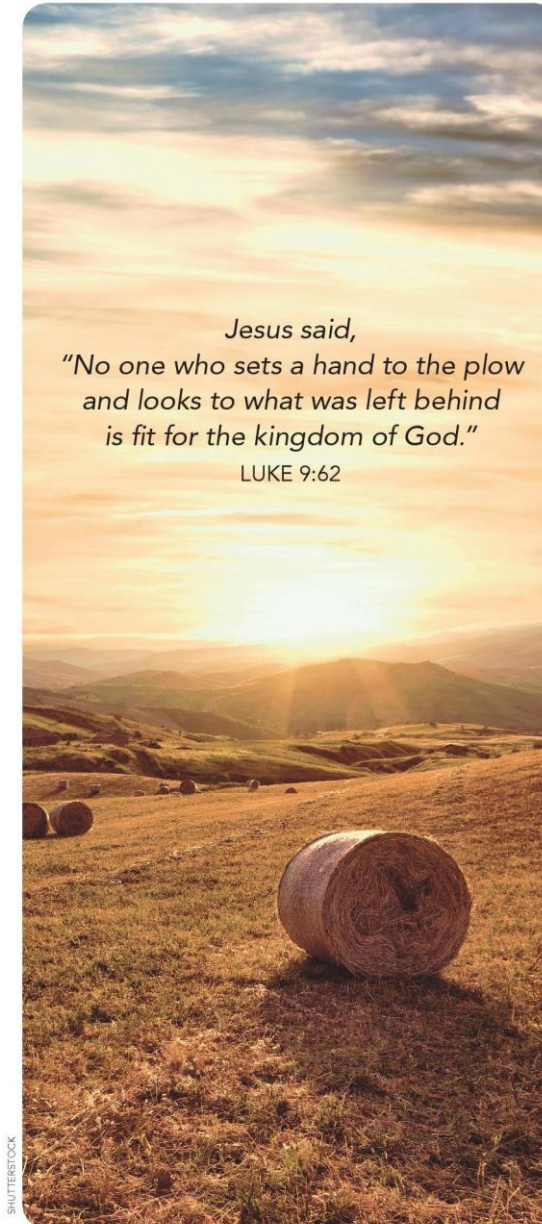
decide how much attention a rumor deserves—and generally, the less time and energy we devote to rumors, the better we are!

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### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*When we see a mistake, a fault, a slip...usually the first thing we do is to go and recount it to others, to gossip....The great gossip is the devil, who always goes about saying bad things about others, because he is the liar who seeks to separate the Church, to distance brothers and sisters.*

ANGELUS, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020



Jesus said,  
"No one who sets a hand to the plow  
and looks to what was left behind  
is fit for the kingdom of God."

LUKE 9:62

## What Are You Willing to Pay?

**E**veryone appreciates a bargain. However, there are some things we would give almost anything to acquire. Who or what determines the value of something? Some things are esteemed because they are old; some because they are rare. Often the value might really be in the meaning it holds for the one who desires or prizes it. We might want a house because it reminds us of our treasured childhood home. We might cherish a sweater that belonged to a loved one now passed. The price we are willing to pay indicates the value we give to it, and that price is not always monetary.

Elisha was in line to succeed the prophet Elijah. However, Elisha was required to consider everything else as second in importance to his commitment to this prophetic charge, even a son's responsibility to bid farewell to his parents. A parallel situation is found in the Gospel passage. At first glance one might think this is an extreme, even inhuman, demand. It should be noted, however, in neither situation was close following of a prophetic individual demanded of the person who wished to be a disciple. Each person first volunteered for that way of life before the price of following was revealed.

Various possible life directions are set before all of us. We are free to choose. However, the depth of our desire for our choice is measured by our willingness to pay the price that choice might exact. The price required for committing oneself to the reign of God is...everything!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ✦ What do you cherish more than anything else?
- ✦ Does the object you cherish most reveal the way you are establishing the reign of God in your life?