

Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

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1 Kings 8:41-43 and John 6:59ff (2006)

Paraphrase of 1 Kings text:

When a stranger, who is not of your people,
comes from a distant land because they have
heard of you-
and they will hear of you, your power and your
open door -
when a stranger comes and prayers with you,
then hear my voice calling and do as the
stranger asks,
so that all the peoples of the earth may know
your name
and know that your name reflects my
indwelling.

Gospel Reflection (could be responsive)

give to them that seek
*not because of their need not because of their
worthiness*

give to them that ask
*not for our own glory not to testify to our
personal goodness*

give to them that seek
*to bear witness to the spirit dancing in our
lives*

1 Kings 17-18 (Elijah)

We see Elijah calling on the name of God,
responding to the forces of evil with an appeal
to a higher power.

May we be a people of faith.

We see Elijah caring for the most vulnerable,
offering bread to the widow and a healing
touch to her child.

May we be a people of compassion.

We see Elijah speaking truth to power,
daring to deliver words of judgment
to the King.

May we be a people of justice.

We see Elijah ascend in the whirlwind,
offering the promise of the still unfolding
future.

May we be a people of hope.

1 Kings 19 - Confession and Assurance

**We come seeking God in mighty
earthquakes.**

**We come listening for God in resounding
thunder.**

**We come expecting God in sweeping
victories.**

Yet God is found in a baby's touch.

Yet God speaks in silence.

Yet God is found in the least of these.

Save us, O God, from our aimless wandering.

Save us, O God, from our idols.

Save us, O God, from our self-induced chaos.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Amen.

Hear the good news of God's love for us;
not in the earthquake, not in the storms, not in
the mighty deeds
but in the silence, in the gentle touch, in the
quiet rain
God says,
again,
"You are my Beloved. I love you."

2 Kings 2:19-22 - see Genesis 19:24-26 (2002) -
Called to be Salt

2 Kings 5 (2003) - Naaman's Story

*a little girl
an army commander
a religious zealot*

*for one brief moment
difference suspended
doubt superceded*

*ordinary water
simple ritual
extraordinary presence*

May we have the courage of the child
to reach out to even the powerful.

May we have the wisdom of Namaan
to ask for help when we are lost.

May we have the faithfulness of Elisha
to love outside the lines.