

## If I Were Retiring This Year

2 Kings 2:9-15 Luke 24:44-53

- **Parish/Pastoral Notices**
- **Welcome to our congregation and worshipping guests**
- **Prayer**
- **2 Kings 2:9-15**

*<sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets<sup>[a]</sup> also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then 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. <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> He 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. <sup>11</sup> As 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. <sup>12</sup> Elisha 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.*

### **Elisha Succeeds Elijah**

*<sup>13</sup> He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> He 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.*

- **Welcome others enthusiastically**
- **Peace Project**
- **In a Word: Fellowship**
- **Be Winter Garden Good.**
- **Be Givers of Grace.**
- **Love all God's people**
- **A Final Word from Jesus**
- **Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV)**

*<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses<sup>[a]</sup> of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

*<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him, and<sup>[a]</sup> returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.*

- **Christ is Counting on You**
- **Prayer**