



# Daily Reflections

**June 16, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **1 Kings 19: 19-21**

Elijah set out, and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat, as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen; he was following the twelfth.

Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him.

Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and I will follow you."

Elijah answered, "Go back!

Have I done anything to you?"

Elisha left him and, taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them; he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh, and gave it to his people to eat.

Then he left and followed Elijah as his attendant.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

What a shock it must have been for Elisha to have the great Prophet Elijah select him by suddenly throwing his cloak over him. This was a call on behalf of God and what a powerful call to be sure. Elisha had big shoes to fill. But after bidding farewell to his parents, he burns all bridges and moves forward as the successor of Elijah. No looking back.

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**Food for your Journey**

Do you think Elisha felt like a beginner after Elijah disappeared and he was left holding the mantle? Consider these words from Gustav Mahler in a letter to a friend while he was working on his Fourth Symphony:

"This one is fundamentally different from my other symphonies. But that must be; I could never repeat a state of mind -- and as life drives on, so too I follow new tracks in every work. That is why at first it is always so hard for me to get down to work. All the skill that experience has brought one is of no avail. One has to learn all over again for the new thing one set out to make. So one remains everlastingly a beginner! ... It is and always will be a gift of God -- one that, like every loving gift, one cannot deserve and cannot get by asking. -- Knud Martner, ed. Selected Letters of Gustav Mahler (New York: 1979), 242.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Gracious Father, In spite of all my failures and shortcoming You call me to follow Your Son and to be His disciple. With Your Grace all things are possible. Help me, Lord, to be open, courageous and faithful, especially during the difficult times. May all my efforts bring You glory and praise. Amen