

Daily Homily
Week Ten in Ordinary Time
10 June 2020
[USCCB Daily Reading](#)

(Friday, June 19 is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Today begins the novena of the Sacred Heart. Find the prayer on our website. On Friday, June 19 we will have a Holy Hour in church from 7-8pm. All are welcome, no RSVP necessary, social distancing will be observed.)

I have this recurring dream. Remember, dreams are meant to be strange. It is a simple dream that changes location from time to time. Sometimes I am by myself on a mountaintop. Sometimes I am in a crowd of people that is unrecognizable but similar to Time's Square in New York City. Sometimes I am in one of those crowded outdoor market places that you see in the movies, but I have never seen in real life. I think that is my deep-seeded desire to be Indiana Jones. In these places I am doing one thing – singing. Remember, dreams are meant to be strange. I am singing the "Gloria" from Mass, all by myself, at top volume. No one seems to care though. No one seems to be bothered. No one seems to hear me even. It is unnerving. I am the only one singing, but I want so much for others to join in the song. No one does. Strange.

Elijah, the prophet, is the only one in the land who believes in God. He is the last one – the last believer. "I am the only surviving prophet of the Lord." Elijah is very secure in being the last and only one. However, he is pained by people's waywardness. The culture has taken over. King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, have been successful in swaying their people to their destructive behavior and their self-serving ways. This is the last stand for Elijah. His single, solitary self comes up against four hundred and fifty prophets (450) of the god, Baal. Elijah wants decisions made. He wants decisiveness, either the God of Israel – who saves and sets free or the popular god of the day, Baal – who over indulges and parties excessively.

What a showdown! Baal's swarm of prophets set up their bull and pyre and dance and sing around it and even give into slashing themselves to make them bleed thinking it will make their god act and react. Elijah even gives them advice to shout louder, maybe Baal is meditating or sleeping. (Ok, maybe it wasn't advice, he was taunting them.) They carry on like this all morning long. Nothing happens. Elijah sets up his sacrifice and drenches it with water, not once but three times. He baptizes it. He invokes the Lord's name and fire consumes the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and the water along with it. What a scene!

Elijah knows the Lord. The prophet knows what the Lord is capable of doing. He walks in complete trust of God. What an overwhelming number of believers in Baal. Elijah was the only one. However, he did not feel the pressure of being single or solitary in that relationship. He was confident, poised, polished. Baal, as a god, does not exist. Baal, as a lifestyle, does exist – to this day, it is a lifestyle that may seem fun and exciting at first, but always leads to destruction in the end. Life with the Lord, always saves and sets free.

Elijah was the only one singing God's praise. What if the culture of our day gave way? What if you were the only Catholic left in the world? What would you do in your single, solitary life of faith? What would you do as you come up against the nonexistent gods, but pervasive behaviors, of our times?

Elijah is bold because he has a bold relationship with God. Pray for boldness today.