



# Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

February 12, 2023

*“To Live a Good Life: Who is the most important person?”*

## **Personal Experience as a Chaplain:**

There are many words of wisdom I remember from my chaplaincy and pastoral care experiences in assisted living facilities, hospitals, and correctional institutions, even in a corporate setting. One phrase is this:

*You are the chaplain to the person in front of you.*

Elijah’s answer might be surprising to us. “Who is the most important person?” The answer is the person standing in front of us; the person we are with at the present moment!

As a hospital chaplain I was often approached by a person clearly in distress as they said “Please come to see my [friend, relative, co-workers]. She is really ill. Can you come and pray for her. To be honest, the only person who needed comfort was the person talking to me. Of course, I went with them to the patient’s room, but the immediate need for care was standing right in front of me.



## **The Answer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Question Posed to Elijah in the Folktale: Who is the Most Important Person?**

Like it or not, for much of the day we become the most important person in the world. But think for a minute when you and I find ourselves in our own private domain: have we ever felt we were not being heard or seen or treated as if what was important to us was ignored by those around us?

But when we leave our private domain, the secret to a happy life is to treat others around us as the most important people in the world. How much of a difference does it make to listen deeply to our friends and loved ones, treating them with this importance?

Remember when the most important time is according to Elijah? The present moment, and it naturally follows that the most important people are those whom we are with in that moment.

## **Philippians 2:3-5 Tells us where to Focus our Attention**

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus ...*

Regardless of who is standing in front of us at any moment, we are to treat others as Christ has treated us. Each day, each moment. “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” [1 Cor 12:12-13] Next Sunday’s “Blast” will show how the answer to question three flows from the answer to questions two and one.

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Let us keep in our prayers: Joyce awaiting a medical procedure; those who have died and were injured in the disastrous earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Lord, hear our prayer!