

Gospel Lesson for the Week

July 1, 2007

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Read [Luke 9:51-62](#)

Read also: [2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14](#); [Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20](#); [Galatians 5:1, 13-25](#)

On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

Luke 9:52b-56

Collateral Damage

It was only a thought,
a big idea that drew the Lord's rebuke.

Bring down fire upon the town
because they're not like us.
Notice the symbol on their door,
a crescent or a star.
Who knows what mischief
may be on their mind.
Fire!
Bring down fire.

And I can picture him
stooping to the ground
to trace his finger in the dust
(It was a mannerism
he used sometimes
when he needed time to think,
when there were persons
of self-righteous mien
and murderous intent.)
And then, the quiet rebuke,
blunting their anger.
Then on to other things
like setting priorities.
But before I go on to other issues,
let me ponder for a moment:
It seems that the disciples' solution,
fire on the town,

was not worthy of serious consideration
in Jesus' mind.
And so the disciples
quickly abandoned the thought.
O, My, how times have changed!

--- rvc