

Actions have consequences.

Parents and teachers work hard so that young people can learn this simple truth, and yet we see individuals, corporations, and countries doing things and not thinking of the consequences.

In yesterday's reading from the Book of Kings, Elijah had just prophesied against King Ahab that as a consequence of the king's wrong actions, there would be a draught.

And in today's reading, Elijah comes across a widow who with her son is starving. She fully expects to make one last small meal and then die. But she stops what she's doing to bring water for the prophet. Then Elijah prophesies that she and her son will have food to eat until the draught ends.

One small act of mercy by this widow brings about the very tangible consequence of God's mercy for her family.

In yesterday's Gospel, Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes. And now he speaks to his disciples about how their faith must be realized through actions. The Beatitudes are a guide for Christian living, yet that is not where our faith ends. The action of grace in our lives must have consequences. The light of our faith needs to shine forth in the consequences of our own actions.

And so, today, let us pray that the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives will bring about consequences that give glory to God by our own works of mercy.