

FAIR-FIELDER

Catch what was said in the sermon?

February 11, 2018



A bad **magician** will use obvious and clumsy **distractions**.

The familiarity of the text can put us in **autopilot mode** (2) as we read it over one more time.

Scholars have no good explanation for this **victory lap** (2) preceding the big event.

By going “beyond the **Jordan**,” Elijah and Elisha are effectively outside the reach of any **king** or **worldly ruler** (2).

Rather, Elisha uses an **idiom** referring to the **preferential** allotment of an inheritance.

He would not be **Elijah**; there would be only one.

But there is also a lack of **clarity** in the **disciples’** minds.

Keeping silent - **awestruck** - may have been preferable.

This big **splashy display** (2) is *not* what constitutes ministry.

Ministry is not going to be done on the **mountaintop**.

Even the solemnness of the **Ash Wednesday ritual** (3) is not what’s important.