

The Call of Elisha

1 Kings 19:13-21

A. Elijah at the End of the Trail

1. A mighty prophet of God neared the close of his ministry.
 - a. He challenged wicked King Ahab in a confrontation on Mt. Carmel.
 - b. He prayed with such power that he stopped the rain for six months.
 - c. He became the second man in space - after Enoch.
 - d. He was so important that he met Moses and Jesus at the Transfiguration.
2. Elijah was commissioned to choose Elisha as his successor (v. 17).
3. God's call comes in the middle of a crisis, he is discouraged, hiding in a cave.
4. Elijah has fled after Mount Carmel due to fear and burnout.
5. God often speaks in moments when we feel most alone or discouraged.
6. His reaction is typical of a lot of people. He tries to justify himself!
7. Even in seasons of doubt & fear, God is preparing the next step.
8. Even when we feel done, God's purposes continue, both for us & through us.

B. God's Work Continues

1. Elijah is told to prepare the next prophet as God has a plan for continuation.
2. This shows that God's work is generational, not dependent on one person alone.
3. We must be ready to invest in others—to mentor, disciple, and release.
4. God raises up successors for his mission, as no servant of God is indispensable.
5. Are we investing in others to carry the mission forward?
6. Elisha's call was personal and purposeful (v. 19)
7. The Cloak represents the prophetic mantle — God's authority and calling.
8. Elisha's ploughing his land, faithfully working. "Bloom where you are planted!"
9. He was evidently successful and loved doing things in a big way.
10. God knows who you are & where to find you.
11. Be faithful in your current place – He calls those who are already committed.
16. Now his life would be turned around, and he would never be the same.

C. Elisha's Call from the Lord (v. 19)

1. The Lord knew Elisha before Elijah arrived (v. 16; 1 Peter 1:2)
2. The Lord used Elijah to tell Elisha of His call (Eph. 1:4).
 - a. God uses His servants to fulfill His will.
 - b. We should be open to the ministry of the servants of God.
3. God's call often demands that we leave worldly success behind to serve Him.
4. The call of God always creates a conflict in our lives.
5. God's call demands a decision to follow Him.
6. Moses had to leave his sheep; Peter must leave his boats and fishing.
7. Elisha's had many problems as he considered God's call.
 - a. The problem of his parents. Loved ones are often involved in a decision.
 - b. The problem of his position. Who will tend the farm?
 - c. The problem of his passion for power, with a field full of hired hands.

8. This is a battle that many people lose.
9. The rich young ruler lost this battle (Luke 18:18-23)
10. Will you choose worldly things and lose God's best for your life?
11. Elisha's response was immediate and total (vv. 20-21)
12. *"He left the oxen and ran after Elijah..."*
6. Elisha left his work, burned his ploughing equipment & slaughtered the oxen.
7. He put on a feast to say goodbye.
8. No turning back. Full commitment. Elisha didn't leave room for retreat.
9. He made no provision to return to his old life.
10. God's call demands a radical and complete surrender.
11. Full surrender is the only appropriate response to God's call.
12. Are you willing to burn the plough?

D. Elisha's Consecration That Emerged from His Conflict (v. 21)

1. Elisha decided that God would be first in his life.
 - a. God's call was more important than position or power.
 - b. Elisha's surrender would give him the position of a prophet of God.
 - c. Elisha would ultimately be even more powerful than Elijah.
2. Elisha made his commitment public.
 - a. He burned his plough in the field and had a barbecue for his workmen.
 - b. The neighbourhood would know there was a new prophet on the block.
3. Elisha became a servant before becoming a prophet (v. 21b)
4. An important principle: Before leading, Elisha learned to serve.
5. You don't join the army & become a General immediately.
6. You need to learn before you can lead, take orders before you can give them.
7. Biblical Pattern: Moses and Joshua, Paul and Timothy, Jesus & His disciples.
8. Humble service is the pathway to fruitful ministry.
9. Serving precedes significance in God's kingdom.
10. Are you willing to serve while you wait on your full calling?

E. How Will You Respond to God's Call on Your Life?

1. God's call is sovereign, personal, and demanding.
2. Elisha's story challenges us to:
 - a. Listen when God calls,
 - b. Let go of the past,
 - c. Follow wholeheartedly.
3. Is God calling you to something greater?
4. Are you ready to lay down your plough and follow Him?
5. Elisha's call is a model of radical obedience and readiness.
6. God still calls today—are you listening?
7. Are you willing to burn your plough and follow Him with your whole heart?
8. Will you count all things as loss for Christ?
9. Will you publicly declare your surrender to him?