

## Passing the Mantle

2 Kings 2:1-15

### A. Introduction:

1. Elijah's departure & Elisha's anointing mark a turning point in God's work.
2. Elijah & Elisha were two of the most prominent prophets in Israel's history.
3. Elijah's ministry was marked by dramatic demonstrations of God's power.
4. Elisha was a broader, more compassionate application in everyday life.
5. We see God's work & power available to those who seek Him wholeheartedly.
6. = *young Elephant illustration* =

### B. God Prepares His Servants for Change (vv. 1-6)

1. The life of the prophet Elisha illustrates a condition we should all covet.
2. God's will is not always convenient, understandable, or comfortable for us.
3. God had plans for Elisha, & he responded to the call.
4. God made sure Elisha knew His plan for him. Prov. 3:5-6 is very true.
5. Elijah placed the mantle, the symbol of office, on Elisha at God's direction.
6. This showed to Elisha that he was to serve & eventually replace him.
7. To enjoy the obedient life, we begin by a clear response to God's leading.
8. Those who make a commitment to God, & stay with that commitment, have incredible experiences with Him.

### C. The Ministries of Elijah & Elisha

1. Elijah was a stern, forceful, rugged loner.
2. Elisha was a gentle, kind man who loved being with people & helping others.
3. Elijah was a rough-hewn country boy from poor region. No background given.
4. His ministry is one of stern denunciation, confrontation & judgment.
5. He focussed on calling the nation back to God through prophetic confrontation.
6. Elisha was a strong, rugged man from well-to-do farm family.
7. His ministry appears more concerned with people.
9. Theme of Elijah's miracles: God's sovereignty, holiness, & power to confront sin.
10. Elisha's Miracles had a broader scope, more about Compassion & Restoration.
11. Elisha's ministry touched kings, soldiers, widows, lepers, & ordinary people.

<u>Elijah</u>	<u>Elisha</u>
Ministry of confrontation	Ministry of compassion
Fewer miracles, mostly public & dramatic	More miracles, often personal & restorative
Called down fire	Brought healing & life
Lived much in wilderness	Lived among people
Faced kings directly	Worked with kings indirectly
Picture of John the Baptist	Picture of Christ's miracles

21. God calls all different kinds of people. As we respond He shapes us into His plan.

**D. Elisha Refused to Be Discouraged**

1. As they travelled together, Elijah tests Elisha's commitment ("Stay here...").
2. God often prepares us for new seasons through tests of faithfulness & loyalty.
3. Elisha's commitment enabled him to resist every effort to turn him aside.
4. Some never break totally with their past, then struggle with discouragement.
5. Elisha never complained about the cost of his commitment.

**E. God Honours a Holy Desire (vv. 7–10)**

1. Elijah asks, "What can I do for you before I am taken?"
2. A double portion of your spirit - not selfish ambition, but spiritual effectiveness.
3. Elijah: "You have asked a difficult thing" -it is God who gives spiritual power.
4. The greatest request is more of God's Spirit, not more material blessings.
5. Do you hunger for spiritual power more than comfort or recognition?
6. Elisha received the blessing of success. His obedience had been honoured.
7. Those whose commitment is strong enough to produce an obedient life will experience special blessings from God.

**F. God Empowers His Servants (vv. 11–15)**

1. Elijah taken up with chariots of fire — God's dramatic seal on His prophet.
2. Elisha takes up Elijah's mantle — symbolic of the prophetic office.
3. Elisha parts the Jordan - proof God's Spirit remains at work.
4. The sons of the prophets recognize: "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha."
5. God's work is not tied to one person. His Spirit empowers the next generation.
6. Don't idolize God's servants; trust the God who sends them.
7. When Elisha burned his oxen, he did not know what the future held for him.
8. Those who "burn their plows" will be led of God through discouraging times.

**G. Conclusion:**

1. It is not wrong to follow a man who follows God.
2. Many people miss blessings because they are afraid or unwilling to pay a price.
3. It doesn't have to be "Big" to be God's call.
4. God's call may lead into danger, but more dangerous to fail to heed His call.
5. This story reminds us that God's servants change, but God's mission doesn't.
6. It shows that the Spirit's power is available to those who desire & pursue it.
7. Every child of God has a call, & God desires to make His call known.
8. Elisha weighed the cost & paid the price.
9. God works in different ways through different servants.
10. Ask big things from God — like Elisha, seek the "double portion" of His Spirit.
11. Miracles are signs pointing to God — not to the prophet's greatness.
12. This story reminds us that God's power is not limited to one style of ministry.
13. He uses different personalities, approaches, & seasons to reveal Himself.
14. Are we willing to be faithful, hungry for God's power, ready to carry the mantle?