

## FINISHING the Race ~ 2 Kings 2:1-25

→ Scripture Reading - 1 Kings 19:13, 15-16, 19, 21

### Elijah Calls ELISHA into SERVICE ~ 1 Kings 19:19-21

<sup>19</sup> So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. <sup>20</sup> Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about **what I have done to you.**" <sup>21</sup> So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. **Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.**

**Attendant-** to assist, to minister to, to serve

### IMPLICATION

The measure of a man is not how many servants he has, but how many men he serves. DL Moody

You can tell if who has a servants-heart by how they act when they are treated like a servant. Sanny

**Mark 10:45** (NIV) For even the Son of Man did NOT come to be served, but TO SERVE, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

### Elijah has Called His Replacement

#### Unique Place in the Bible

- Elijah and Enoch NEVER Died- Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11
- Elijah joined Moses and Jesus at the TRANSFIGURATION- Matthew 17:1-13
- Many thought Jesus was ELIJAH come back- Matthew 16:14
- John the Baptist was asked if he WAS Elijah- John 1:25
- Jesus said John the Baptist was the "Elijah" who was to come- Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 11:11, 14
- James uses Elijah as an illustration of Power in Prayer - James 5:7
- Elijah is mentioned more than any other Old Testament prophet

#### Outstanding Characteristics:

- Prayer Life
- Deep Mourning over Sin
- Many Miracles
- Faith
- Courage
- Obedience
- Restored After Running

### IMPLICATION

**James 5:17-18** (NIV) Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

#### Helps for Prayer

- ASK God for help
- Keep a Prayer JOURNAL
- Fancy Language is NOT necessary
- Pray SCRIPTURE
- Pray Even when you don't know DETAILS
- Never Give up

## Elijah's FAREWELL Tour ~ 2 Kings 2:1-25

<sup>7</sup> Fifty men from the group of prophets also went and watched from a distance as Elijah and Elisha stopped beside the Jordan River. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah folded his cloak together and struck the water with it. The river divided, and the two of them went across on dry ground! <sup>9</sup> When they came to the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken away." And Elisha replied, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit and become your successor." <sup>10</sup> "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah replied. "If you see me when I am taken from you, then you will get your request. But if not, then you won't." <sup>11</sup> As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father! My father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!" And as they disappeared from sight, Elisha tore his clothes in distress. <sup>13</sup> Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak, which had fallen when he was taken up. Then Elisha returned to the bank of the Jordan River. <sup>14</sup> He struck the water with Elijah's cloak and cried out, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" Then the river divided, and Elisha went across.

<sup>19</sup> One day the leaders of the town of Jericho visited Elisha. "We have a problem, my lord," they told him. "This town is located in pleasant surroundings, as you can see. But the water is bad, and the land is unproductive." <sup>20</sup> Elisha said, "Bring me a new bowl with salt in it." So they brought it to him. <sup>21</sup> Then he went out to the spring that supplied the town with water and threw the salt into it. And he said, "This is what the LORD says: I have purified this water. It will no longer cause death or infertility." <sup>22</sup> And the water has remained pure ever since, just as Elisha said.

<sup>23</sup> Elisha left Jericho and went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, a group of boys from the town began mocking and making fun of him. "Go away, baldy! they chanted. "Go away, baldy!" <sup>24</sup> Elisha turned around and looked at them, and he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of them. <sup>25</sup> From there Elisha went to Mount Carmel and finally returned to Samaria.

**2 Chronicles 36:16** (NIV) But they mocked God's messengers, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against His people and there was no remedy.

## IMPLICATION

**Leviticus 26:21–22** (NET) If you walk in hostility against ME and are not willing to obey ME, I will increase your affliction seven times according to your sins. <sup>22</sup> I will send the wild animals against you...

**Galatians 6:7** (NET) Do not be deceived. God will not be made a fool. For a person will reap what he sows

→ God's Judgment may be Delayed but it is Always CERTAIN

**Galatians 6:9** (NET) So we must NOT grow WEARY in Doing Good, for in due time we will REAP, IF we do not GIVE UP...

## TAKE AWAY ??

<sup>25</sup> From there Elisha went to Mount Carmel and finally returned to Samaria.

When God's leader is removed, everything of God remains. HOTC

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