

God's Call

"The LORD said to him [Elijah], "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel — all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."

- 1 Kings 19:15-18

In This Series...

1. We will learn that most of us could think much bigger about what we can do for the sake of God's Kingdom.
2. We will see that common, faithful people, with a big dream, and great faith, can make a tremendous difference in our world.

Who Was Elisha?

His name means "My God is salvation."

He was from Abel Meholah but we know nothing else about his personal life.

He is an easy person to relate to:

- He was a learner (disciple) for four years.
- He was a common person although he was from a wealthy family.
- Unlike Elijah, he spent time among the people he served.

Two items that make him unique:

- He wouldn't allow his office (or His God) to be defamed.

"From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some youths came out of the town and jeered at him. "Go on up, you baldhead!" they said. "Go on up, you baldhead!" ²⁴He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the LORD. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths. ²⁵And he went on to Mount Carmel and from there returned to Samaria."

- 2 Kings 2:23-25

- He had big dreams.

"When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied."

- 2 Kings 2:9



God's Call

God can call you to a new level of holiness, a specific task, a new commitment of Christian discipline, or a lifetime of professional ministry. *What is His call on your life today?*

Today's Scripture

"So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. ²⁰Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" ²¹So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant."

- 1 Kings 19:19-21

What Do We Learn About God's Call?

1. When God called Elisha, he was busy working.

"So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him."

- 1 Kings 19:19

Those who are faithful with small things are given bigger opportunities.

He was probably wealthy enough to not have to work in the fields, but he didn't take his privilege for granted.

2. God's call is often a surprise.

"Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him."

- 1 Kings 19:19

3. God's opportunities often demand a quick response.

"Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you."

- 1 Kings 19:20

4. God's call is between you and God.

"Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

- 1 Kings 19:20

Elijah basically said, "what is that to me?"

5. God's call means that you walk away and don't look back.

"So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate."

- 1 Kings 19:21

6. God's call often involves serving behind the scenes.

"Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant."

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Your Best Thought?

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