

# What Will Be Your Legacy?

## In This Series...

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

## The Scriptures

*"Now Elisha was suffering from the illness from which he died. Jehoash king of Israel went down to see him and wept over him. "My father! My father!" he cried. "The chariots and horsemen of Israel!"* - 2 Kings 13:14

*"Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. <sup>21</sup>Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet."* - 2 Kings 13:20,21

## Lessons from Elisha

1. We must remember that Elisha was just a man. He faced illness and death like any other man.

*Because of his faith, his integrity, and, of course, his miracles, people had a tendency to consider him as more than a man.*

2. Elisha was visited by a king who weeps for him. (Joash)

The king's words over Elisha are unusual: *"My father! My father!" he cried. "The chariots and horsemen of Israel!"*

These words had been used by Elisha when Elijah was taken to heaven.

*"As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup>Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart."* - 2 Kings 2:11-12

The phrase indicated that the prophet was the leader and power of Israel, and was even more powerful than Israel's armies.

*"And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."* - 2 Kings 6:17

3. Elisha died and was buried. It is a reminder that life is precious and that every life comes to an end — no matter how Godly one may be.

## The Rest of the Story

*"Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring."* - 2 Kings 13:20

In the spring, the winter wheat was being harvested and those who lived in the desert area of Moab would come to steal the harvest.

During a funeral procession the "pall-bearers" threw the dead body into a cave where Elisha had been buried, and ran for their lives from the raiders.

*"Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb."* - v. 21

When the dead man's body touched the bones of Elisha, he was raised to life.

*<sup>21</sup>"When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet."* - 2 Kings 13:21



## Why Would God Do This?

1. God promised Elisha that he would have a double-portion of Elijah's spirit. He was one miracle short!

*"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.*

*<sup>10</sup>"You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours — otherwise not."* - 2 Kings 2:9,10

2. God was reminding the people that even though the prophet was dead, God was still very much alive!
3. God was reminding the people that no person does a miracle, but only God has this power, and He works through His people as He chooses. *(There was no power in Elisha's bones...)*
4. God was reminding all of us that we leave a legacy. The way we live is how we will be remembered. And the way we live will make a difference to the next generation.

*"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets... <sup>34</sup>and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead, raised to life again..."* - Hebrews 11:32,34,35

## Consider:

What legacy do you wish to leave? How must you live now to assure that legacy?

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