

WARM-UP

- If someone were to copy the way you do things, how do you think you would react?
- When was the last time you led a group or an activity? What did you discover about yourself from that experience?
- Have you ever followed someone persistently? What made you follow that person and what was their impact on your life?

WORD *¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. **2 KINGS 2:1-2***

(Read also **2 KINGS 2:3-15**.)

In the last days of the prophet Elijah, there was going to be a transition in prophetic leadership in Israel as he was about to be taken up to heaven. The passage above shows us how Elisha, a follower of Elijah who is also a prophet, refused to leave his side. Today, we will look at how this transition took place and how God continued His work through the life of someone who was eager to be used by Him.

1 | Elisha persistently followed Elijah.

And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

2 KINGS 2:2

Elisha was set on spending as much time as he could with the prophet Elijah. He knew that Elijah's days on earth were almost over, so he persistently followed Elijah as he accomplished God's remaining tasks for him. We see Elisha's humility, trying to learn as much as he could from his mentor and his faithfulness to God's call. Elisha's posture is a good example for us to eagerly learn from those who have been walking with God ahead of us. Is there someone from the older generation that you are walking with and learning from? What have you learned from this person?

2 | Elisha was willing to lead like Elijah.

*When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." **2 KINGS 2:9***

For people during their time, it would be clear that when Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, he was referring to the double share of the inheritance given to the oldest son or the leadership role in the family. Elisha was expressing that he was willing and ready to step up and carry the responsibility that Elijah had. This is a reminder that we can also choose to embrace whatever leadership role God has for us today. We are to willingly continue the work of the men and women of God who have gone before us and participate in the mission of God. In what areas has

God entrusted you to lead? How have you experienced His presence as you lead?

3 | God continues His work across generations.

*¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. ¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. **2 KINGS 2:14-15***

The other prophets acknowledged that the leadership mantle had been passed from Elijah to Elisha. God honored Elisha's eagerness and desire by giving His Spirit upon him. God's faithfulness in raising and equipping the next generation to accomplish His purposes continues to this day. It is also an invitation for us to embrace God's call in our lives and to walk faithfully with Him, as He calls and empowers us. Recall how you've seen God work through different generations.

APPLICATION

- Is there an area in your life where you need to be persistent? List three things you can do to grow in this area, and trust that God will mold your character and enable you to fulfill what He is calling you to do.
- How can you grow more as a leader? Think of two things you can do this week to be more proactive in leading yourself and others.
- Who are you persistently following in terms of Christian life and leadership? How can you actively take part in continuing God's work through those who have gone ahead of you?

PRAYER

- Ask God to lead you to someone who will be an example of Christian living and leadership for you. Pray for opportunities to participate and continue God's work through the previous generations.
- Pray that just like Elisha, you will not be afraid to step up whenever there is a need. Ask God to mold you as a servant leader and for a double portion of His Spirit.
- Ask God for open doors to share His word across generations. Pray that He would make you and keep you ready to speak about His faithfulness to you and your family.



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Contributor: Mona Pondales

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