

Courage in a Corrupt Culture Part VII – The Call and the Mantle

Summary of the Message

God's Kingdom is always moving forward through succession, from one generation to the next. Elijah's story shows us that God never finishes a work without preparing someone to carry it forward. When God tells Elijah to anoint Elisha, we see how the call of God works in real life...it finds people in the middle of faithfulness, demands full surrender, and requires service before leadership. Elisha had opportunity, options, and security, yet he chose obedience over comfort. He burned the plow, boiled the oxen, and followed the prophet. Before he ever carried the mantle, he carried a towel. And when the time came, he did not just inherit a position, he inherited power through the Holy Spirit. The same God who called Elisha is still calling the next generation today to serve, to surrender, and to step into their purpose.

Key Scriptures

- 1 Kings 19:19–21
- 2 Kings 2:9
- 2 Kings 2:11–14
- James 4:6
- Zechariah 4:6

Study Questions

1. **Pastor B mentioned that God calls the active, not the idle, like Elisha in the field?**

God called Elisha while he was actively plowing, showing that God calls the faithful and the diligent, not the idle. Faithfulness in ordinary responsibilities prepares a person for extraordinary purpose.

2. **What do the burned plow and boiled oxen represent in Elisha's response to God's call?**

They represent complete surrender with no safety net. Elisha removed every option of returning to his old life. This shows that God's call requires total commitment, not partial obedience.

3. Why is serving before leading so important in God's design?

Serving builds humility, discipline, and character. Elisha assisted Elijah before ever becoming a prophet himself. God develops the inside of a person before trusting them with public authority.

4. What is the danger of pursuing anointing without character?

Anointing without character leads to pride, instability, and eventual failure. Elisha learned that character supports the weight of God's glory. Without character, the glory becomes crushing instead of empowering.

5. Why was Elisha's desire for a double portion of Elijah's spirit so significant?

Elisha did not ask for fame, comfort, or position. He asked for spiritual power. This shows that true leaders prioritize the presence and power of God over influence and recognition.

6. What does Elisha striking the Jordan with the mantle symbolize for believers today?

It symbolizes stepping into God's calling with bold faith. Elisha used what God placed in his hands and trusted God to move. When believers act in faith, God confirms the call with power.

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Key Scriptures

- 1 Kings 19:19–21
- 2 Kings 2:9
- 2 Kings 2:11–14
- James 4:6
- Zechariah 4:6

Study Questions

1. Why does God often call people while they are busy working, like Elisha in the field?
2. What do the burned plow and boiled oxen represent in Elisha's response to God's call?
3. Why is serving before leading so important in God's design?
4. What is the danger of pursuing anointing without character?
5. Why was Elisha's desire for a double portion of Elijah's spirit so significant?
6. What does Elisha striking the Jordan with the mantle symbolize for believers today?

Family Spotlight

Illustration: "Burn the Plow"

- Give each child a piece of paper and have them write or draw something that pulls them away from obeying God.
- Tear the paper up together as a picture of Elisha burning his plow.
- Talk about how following God sometimes means letting go of things we like.
- Family Challenge: Pray together and ask God what He may be asking your family to surrender this season..