Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-21
Sermon Title: You Got A Friend in Me: Elijah and Elisha

Allowing God to have more of us so that we can experience more of Him by allowing Him to shape our relationships.

From Elijah to Elisha:
When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" [14] He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." [15] The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, **anoint Hazael king over Aram**. [16] Also, **anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel**, and **anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.** [17] Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. [18] **Yet I reserve** seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."
1 Kings 19:13-21

God is continuing His work in His people & the world though His people & the world work against Him

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. [7] Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. [8] **Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.**
2 Kings 2:6-8

Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. [14] **He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.** [15] The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.
2 Kings 2:13-15

God is continuing His work in His people & the world through His people multiplying themselves.

Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. [20] 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." "Go back," Elijah replied. **"What have I done to you?"**
1 Kings 19:19-20

If you don't want the best for another, you aren't ready to be a mentor.

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and **they will do even greater things than these**, because I am going to the Father.
John 14:12

If you don't want the people you pour into to do better than you, you aren't looking for mentees you're looking for pawns.

Healthy mentors provide private formation & public affirmation.

Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. [8] Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.
2 Kings 1:7-8

Healthy mentors provide meaningful empowerment.

The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there
1 Kings 19:15

Pray about who God is sending you to or sending your way.

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night praying** to God. [13] When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:
Luke 6:12-113

*From Elisha **to Elijah**:*
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

The right people can call the right things out of you.

Give the right people the right to call you up & call you out.

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." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" [21] 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. Then he set out to follow Elijah and **became his servant**.

Be the type of person who is worthy of being entrusted.

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

He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by **giving him a double share** of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him.
Deuteronomy 21:17

Secure relationships allow for bold requests.

"Ask… [11] If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts** to those who ask him!
Matthew 7:7,11

Make bold requests.

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. [12] **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 garment and tore it in two.
2 Kings 2:11-12

Honor your heroes--don't deify them.

"You have placed me on a pedestal so impossibly high, and not to honor me, but to spare yourself the effort to climb"
-The Vision. VisionQuest

Only Jesus is God & should be treated as God.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, [10] that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and **every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:9-11

*Closing **Considerations**:*
Discipleship: The process of growing people into an identity.

Discipling: The activity done by or to people for growing them into an identity.

Disciple: The person in process—willingly or unwillingly, knowingly or unknowingly.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.** [29] To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.
Colossians 1:28-29

Be in healthy mentor/discipleship relationships.

Be healthy in mentor/discipleship relationships.

For **three years** there was no war between Aram and Israel. [2] But in the third year Jehoshaphat king of Judah went down to see the king of Israel.
1 Kings 22:1

Ahaziah son of Ahab became king of Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel **two years**.
1 Kings 22:51

Look for inroads into each other's lives.