

## **Fight For The Miracle**

Thank church and have them be seated...

Welcome guests. Let them know how excited we are to have them worshipping with us.

### **Scripture Text:**

**“So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.”**

**2 Kings 13:20-21ESV**

Sermon Title: **“Fight For The Miracle”**

### **Introduction:**

It wasn't casual and it wouldn't go unnoticed. Elisha had been a prophet in Israel for over 50 years. His prophetic ministry spans four kings of Israel.

And at the time he gets sick unto death it says that the fourth king Joash comes to visit and weeps at the feet of the prophet, a man who he refers to as father. No, Joash isn't a good king, but he also knows that Elisha is one whom respect has been earned.

Elisha isn't just a leader, he is truly a man of God who is used to perform miracles. He had been a man of miracles from the day that the mantle of the prophet Elijah had fallen to him.

**“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.” And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.”**

**2 Kings 2:9-12 ESV**

In what is no coincidence, Joash proclaims the same words to Elisha, that Elisha had lamented towards Elijah...**“Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!”” 2 Kings 13:14 ESV**

But I can not help but think that there is a hesitancy at Elisha's death...you see, it is very publicly known that this is the prophet that asked and received a promise of a Double Portion...

Elijah had performed 7 publicly acknowledged and recorded miracles but here on his deathbed, Elisha has performed only 13...one short, and with that, opening the door to those that would proclaim that he was not the anointed person he was portrayed to be.

This sets up what will become a **“Fight For A Miracle”**

## 1. 13 is Not a Double Portion

How many times have you felt that the time for a miracle has passed. We are our own worse enemy... we set deadlines on God and then proclaim failure when he hasn't responded according to our time or plan.

But it often gets worse...we begin to elaborate that God has failed, that God is not faithful, that God no longer hears our cry. And yet, these words ring more faithful than our scorn...

**"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory." 2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV**

But it remains true at the time of Elisha's death...13 is not a double portion of 7...

- 2 Kings 2:14 Elisha strikes the water with Elijah's cloak, and the Jordan River parts so he can cross.
- 2 Kings 2:19–22 Elisha heals contaminated water by throwing salt into the spring.
- 2 Kings 2:23–25 Elisha curses youths who mocked him, and two bears come out and maul 42 of them.
- 2 Kings 3:16–20 He predicts water will fill dry ditches without rain — which happens — saving Israel and allies during a war.
- 2 Kings 4:1–7 He miraculously multiplies a widow's small amount of oil so she can pay her debts and survive starvation
- 2 Kings 4:18–37 Elisha raises a dead boy back to life through prayer and laying on the boy.
- 2 Kings 4:38–41 Elisha neutralizes a poisoned pot of stew by adding flour.
- 2 Kings 4:42–44 He feeds 100 men with 20 barley loaves and some grain — with food left over.
- 2 Kings 5:1–14 Naaman, a Syrian commander, is healed of leprosy after following Elisha's instruction to wash in the Jordan.
- 2 Kings 5:20–27 Elisha punishes his greedy servant Gehazi with lifelong leprosy.
- 2 Kings 6:1–7 Elisha causes a borrowed iron axe head to float after it falls into the Jordan River.
- 2 Kings 6:8–23 He prays, and God strikes an enemy army with blindness. He then leads them to Samaria, treats them with kindness, and sends them home.
- 2 Kings 7:1–20 Elisha predicts the sudden end of a siege and the drop in food prices — which happens miraculously when the Arameans flee in panic.

13 amazing miracles...but 13 is not 14 and now Elisha is buried in a sepulcher...does this mean God is not faithful?

I feel like I need to preach to people that are giving up on God's promises...someone who thinks it's too late for the miracle.

## 2. He is a miracle working God

I don't have to know where, when, or how to know by absolute faith that God does not come up short on his promises...

I don't have to know where, when, or how to know by absolute faith that the working of a miracle has its beginnings with what appears to be impossible.

And so it is with great irony that God performs a life giving miracle by Elisha while he is dead and

buried.

**“And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.” 2 Kings 13:21 ESV**

It is Elisha’s 14th miracle and it was literally stored up in his bones. This sent my head spinning with questions...

- Who is this man being buried, who would be worthy of being buried beside the prophet Elijah?
  - I reach out to Bro Aaron Holloway knowing how educated he is in Jewish custom and Old Covenant prophecy... and his answer is simple...it’s not about the man being buried...he needs no name and none is given.
  - “Typical behavior is to place bodies into tombs to decompose and then graves collect the bones to be placed into an ossuary with their families bones.”
  - This man and this family got their miracle because God was honoring Elisha’s double portion...it wasn’t done during his lifetime, lest he might boast, but God is faithful all the way into eternity.

God can give you a miracle even when it’s not about you...sometimes the miracle comes by the faith of the one receiving the miracle and at other times it comes by the faith of the one who is the conduit delivering the miracle...but this is what I love, ITS ALL THE SAME GOD!

At the place of Jesus’s first miracle it says, **“This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.” John 2:11 ESV**

A miracle is God manifesting his glory...he is delivering a testimony of his power

- over the earth, over the body,
- over the mind, over the grave,
- over the demonic and spiritual powers
- over judgement and over eternity

He is a miracle working God in life and in death!

### 3. Fighting For A Miracle

But in everything I studied and researched, there is one aspect of this story that I find absolutely baffling.

They had just witnessed one of the greatest miracles of the entire Bible...a dead person touches Elisha’s bones and is raised back to life.

Why didn’t this spark everyone to start bringing the dead to Elisha’s sepulcher to be revived?

It’s not recorded anywhere else where someone else tried...it’s not recorded where they begin to celebrate or testify to others or set up a memorial.

If you thought, even for a second, that all you needed to do was take that loved you just lost so tragically, bring them to the sepulcher of Elisha, and lay them on his bones, and they would be revived...wouldn’t you try?

Why was no one in Israel even trying for this miracle.

I don't think it is all that complicated of an answer...I think the answer is contained right there in the same two verses where the miracle took place.

In order to get to Elisha's sepulcher, there was a good chance you would have to fight the enemy. And they would rather give up on the miracle than have to be courageous enough to fight for the miracle.

There could be a lot of answers not why they never even tried again, but could it be that they would avoid a life giving miracle because they were scared to fight the enemy for the miracle?

I need to stir up some miracle believing Apostolics this morning...The enemy wants to challenge the space where miracles occur and you have to be willing to fight for the miracle.

The enemies tools of warfare are well known...he knows exactly what and how to challenge a miracle.

- Challenge the location - in Elisha's 14th miracle, the enemy is challenging the location where miracles will occur. Miracles happen at church because there is great faith in the church. Miracles happen at church because the ingredients for a miracle are at the church.
  - Call on the elders of the church...we have elders here
  - Lay hands on the sick...we believe in the laying on of hands here
  - Anoint the head with oil...we always have oil ready here
  - Two or Three gathered in faith believing and calling on his name...we always have two or three ready to combine their faith here.

The devil knows if he can tempt you to stay out of church, he can remove a lot of the ingredients needed to obey the promises of God and in turn you will not even try for a miracle.

A want someone to realize that if you are in the house of God this morning you have already moved yourself into a place where all the ingredients for a miracle exists.

You battled through apathy...some battled through anxiety...some have battled through church hurt...some of battled through body pain...

If you are here, you are that much closer to your miracle...maybe it comes because God is honoring your faith, maybe it comes because God is honoring his promise to someone else...

But at the point you need a miracle, who cares why...you just need to receive the miracle!