

THE VALUE OF FOLLOWING A VISION

INTRO: 2 Kings 2

We are introduced to two men, Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was an older prophet who was wrapping up his public ministry. Elisha had been serving Elijah for about ten years.

Elisha had witnessed the ministry of Elijah up close and personal. He listened and observed as this man prophesied things that came to pass, spoke into the lives of religious leaders and kings, as well as performing miracles. The miracles he witnessed included:

- Drought... 1Kings 17:1, James 5:1
- Meal and oil multiplied... 1 Kings 17:14
- Child restored to life... 1 Kings 17:22
- Sacrifice consumed by fire... 1 Kings 18:38
- Captains and men slain by fire... 2 Kings 1:10
- Drought ended... 1 Kings 18:4
- Water of Jordan divided... 2 Kings 2:8

Elisha had been following this vision for more than ten years and in 2 Kings chapter two, Elijah knew he was about to be taken to heaven and say's to Elisha, ***“Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel.”***

When you are committed to following a vision there will be plenty of stops along the track where you will be given an opportunity to disconnect and go your own way.

Elisha was a true disciple and was not about to let the vision fail after ten years of pursuit! His words are the words of a focused servant who would not allow the vision to fail! ***“As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!”***

What seems menial today could be the very thing that positions us for greatness tomorrow!

Three times in one day Elisha had to decide to stay or pursue the man of God from:

- Gilgal to Bethel...
- Bethel to Jericho...
- Jericho to Jordan...

When they arrived at the Jordan, Elijah struck the river with his mantle and the river parted allowing them to walk across on dry ground!

Eventually – after ten years – Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted... Elisha answered immediately – ***“I want a double portion of what you have!”***

What a request! Who asks for such a thing? Elijah was the most powerful prophet in Israel in decades, if not centuries! Most of us would have asked for:

- His influence...
- His connections...
- His church...
- His anointing...

To ask for a double portion is genius! To my surprise Elijah lays out the perimeters of the fulfillment of his request – ***“If you see me when I am taken away, it will be so, but if you do not see me when I am taken away, it will not be so!”***

How we respond to the commands (or demands) of a leader is directly tied to the amount of honor we have, and our honor will determine how much victory we can achieve!

I seriously doubt Elisha blinked the rest of the day! (My mom – ***“Be sure your sins will find you out...”*** There’s an all-seeing eye watching you - You gotta want it to win it, and we want it bad)

(Talk about Shane and Pam leaving a secure career opportunity to move to Tennessee to start The Bend from scratch – I am wondering if there are any Elisha’s in Cookeville?)

Getting up under the vision of your leader positions you to fulfill your own vision! If you are willing to make it happen for others, others will make it happen for you! God will see to it!

Elisha became a spiritual son to Elijah! As sons and daughters, we cannot expect to be positioned for success unless and until we have served the vision of a spiritual father or mother. Writing to the Corinthians the apostle Paul said, ***“You have ten thousand teachers but not many fathers; I have fathered you through the Gospel.”*** (Talk about Fatherlessness – Ask for a show of hands of everyone in the room that has a Spiritual Father or Mother – They know they are your Spiritual Father or Mother and understand that role and you have accepted their leadership as a Spiritual Child – Fatherlessness is more pronounced in the church than anywhere else – The next big thing in the church must be Spiritual Paternity, otherwise what we call “Churches” will continue to be “Orphanages.”)

As we push our leader forward, God will push us forward.

Elijah was taken into Heaven by a chariot and horses of fire! Elisha witnessed the whole thing!

With the Jordan Bible School Students looking on, Elisha went back to the river and took the mantle of Elijah and struck the river saying, ***“Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”*** (Illustrate this)

The water parted and Elisha walked across on dry ground! Following a vision all the way to the end of the road paid off for Elisha! Most people stop short and therefore never obtain the double portion, also known as a Generational Anointing.

Conclusion:

Elisha said, ***“Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”*** I am asking, ***“Where are the Elisha’s of the Lord God?”*** Where are the men and

women who are willing to see a vision through to its successful conclusion? They say there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow – I doubt that – but I can promise you there is a payday at the end of the race for those who follow the vision of a visionary leader to the end of the road! (My experience at the end of a rainbow)

What you make happen for someone else, others will make happen for you! (God will see to it)

We cannot expect to realize the fulfillment of our own vision until we have helped someone else accomplish theirs!

Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah! When we get ourselves stitched into the fabric of a seamless vision, the double portion is produced.

Can you imagine what kind of anointing could be produced if several generations could link arms, going after the fulfillment of a vision?

(Generational curses vs. Generational blessings...)

A Generational Anointing is where a double portion begins to manifest itself!