



Silverdale Baptist Church

Days of Elijah ~ The Departure and Return of Elijah ~ 11/24-25/2023
2 Kings 2:1-15

Big Idea

The departure and return of Elijah.

Getting Started

When you die, what do you want others to say about you?

Unless Jesus returns and we're caught up to meet Him, we will all die. When you die, what will those who knew you say about you? What do you want them to say about you? The highest honor would be to leave a legacy of pointing people toward Jesus and leaving them an example of what it looks like to pursue Jesus.

Learn

| HAVE SOMEONE READ 2 KINGS 2:1-3

1. Leave a Godly Legacy

*When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal ... The group of prophets from Bethel came to Elisha and asked him, "Did you know that the LORD is **going to take your master away from you today?**" (2 Kings 2:1-3)*

- Live Every Day As If It's Your Last Day!

Elijah, Elisha, and the prophets knew the Lord would take Elijah away. However, most of us do not know how or when God will call us home. So, the question is how should we then live.

What would you do differently if you thought today was your last day?

Why wouldn't you live life like today is your last day?

| HAVE SOMEONE READ 2 KINGS 2:4-15

*When they came to the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken away." And Elisha replied, "Please let me inherit **a double share of your spirit**" (2 Kings 2:9)*

What did Elisha want from Elijah?

What legacy are you leaving your family, friends, and those you care about?

2. Leave a Successful Succession

| HAVE SOMEONE READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

*What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, **commit to faithful men** who will be able to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)*

- Faithfulness is the Key to Succession

For Paul, what is the key characteristic to look for when pouring into others?

| HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 KINGS 19:19-21

"First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" ... So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh... Then he went with Elijah as his assistant. (1 Kings 19:20-21)

What in this story shows us Elisha was never going back?

What do you need to turn loose of to follow God fully?

Well, if you want to be used to God, you've got to kiss some things goodbye. If you're going to get more of God, you can't just be carrying on with life as usual. -Pastor Tony

Elijah was caught up to heaven, and Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak. The succession was successful. Elijah passed the baton. Now, Elisha would run the race set before him.

3. The Continuation of Elijah's Ministry

*Look, I am sending you the prophet **Elijah** before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. (Mal. 4:5-6)*

*I tell you, Elijah has already come, but he wasn't recognized, and they chose to abuse him. And in the same way, they will also make the Son of Man suffer." Then, the disciples realized he was talking about **John the Baptist**. (Matt 17:12-13)*

*And I will give power to my **two witnesses**, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days." ⁶ They have the power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish. (Rev. 11:3,6)*

| HAVE SOMEONE READ MALACHI 4:5-6 AND MATTHEW 17:12-13.

What do these passages teach us about Elijah?

| HAVE SOMEONE READ REVELATION 11:3-6

What about the two witnesses makes you think of Elijah?

Our God has a plan. Our God knows exactly what he is doing. Our God knows exactly when He is coming. And the same God who delivered Elijah promises to deliver us. – Pastor Tony

Apply

What do you need to leave behind to fully follow God?

What steps do you need to take this week to be more like Elijah and disciple someone?

Practically speaking, what steps can you take to leave a spiritual legacy?

How has the Holy Spirit spoken to you from this message?

Elijah finished well, twice. Will we finish well, even once?

Pray

Father, these are like the days of Elijah, so give us hearts to be more like Elijah. We want to leave a godly legacy. Father, may those who come behind us find us faithful.