

Elisha - Success is Succession

2 Kings 2:1-25

John Nix

April 16, 2023

The departure of Elijah, the faithful and dramatic prophet who spoke the word of the Lord in the toughest situations over many years, raises the question of what comes next. Although it may have seemed that Israel's defense system was gone because the one who had stood in the gap calling Israel to turn and repent was no longer there, God will not cease to have a man calling Israel to faithfulness. Elijah may be gone, but Yahweh isn't. The God of Elijah is still present, which is what Elisha is expressing when he strikes the river and says, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" Elisha believes that God has certainly not abandoned them and relies on Yahweh for power.

God's work and word continue through Elisha, who is initiated as Elijah's successor and begins his ministry. The series will cover Elisha's ministry, including the passing of the mantle, the miracles, and his death. SUCCESS IS SUCCESSION and God is always working. The names may change, but God's mission remains the same.

Outline

- God's mission is the same, but the names of the servants will change.
- Discipleship takes the word, waiting, watching, walking, and working.
- Jesus reversed the curse and offers the living water needed for healing and life.

"Ought you not to know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?"

—2 Chronicles 13:5 (Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19)

- The generation that neglects the true worship of God usually discovers that the next generation will reject God altogether.

“Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins. And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.”

—Leviticus 26:21-22

Application

- Who are you walking with in discipleship?
- Has the curse of sin been reversed by Jesus in your life?
- How are you involved in passing on the faith to the next generation?

Questions

1. Share a story about a spiritual leader who made a difference in your life.
2. What is the best way to begin a discipling relationship? How would a multigenerational mindset help discipling relationships?
3. What are some other key events that happened at the Jordan river? (Joshua 3; Mark 1:9-11)
4. The prophet’s mantle was a physical symbol of his having been clothed with the Spirit of God. The New Testament often makes use of similar clothing imagery in Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:53-54; 2 Corinthians 5:2; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10, 12; and 1 Peter 5:5.
5. Jesus has once for all defeated Satan, death, and the grave. Yet until he returns to banish evil and to reorder creation, we are to be engaged in spiritual warfare. In what ways are you aware of this battle? What are you doing to overcome evil in your own life and in this world?