

## Elijah and Elisha Week 5

1 Kings 19:19–21 & 2 Kings 2:1–14

**Big Idea:** God’s Kingdom advances through the faithful transfer of truth from one generation to the next.

Matthew 28:18b–20 (CSB)

<sup>18</sup>...“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 (CSB)

Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

### Two Questions

1. Who’s still willing to carry truth in a compromised culture?
2. Who are we preparing to carry it after us?

### 1 Kings 19:19–21 (CSB)

<sup>19</sup> Elijah left there and found Elisha son of Shaphat as he was plowing. Twelve teams of oxen were in front of him, and he was with the twelfth team. Elijah walked by him and threw his mantle over him. <sup>20</sup> Elisha left the oxen, ran to follow Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow you.” “Go on back,” he replied, “for what have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup> So he turned back from following him, took the team of oxen, and slaughtered them. With the oxen’s wooden yoke and plow, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he left, followed Elijah, and served him.

#### 1. Remember: God always uses imperfectly obedient people.

- Elijah struggled with fear, burnout, and weakness, yet God still used him.
- Those who discipled us were imperfect, but many faithfully passed down the Gospel.
- God’s Kingdom advances through surrendered people, not flawless people.
- Discipleship is saying: “Come follow Jesus with me while I keep learning to follow Him too.”
- The issue is not perfection. The issue is surrender and obedience.

#### 2. Remember: We’re called to count the cost of following Jesus.

- Elisha burned the plow and sacrificed the oxen — there was no going back.
- Following Jesus costs comfort, plans, reputation, and sometimes security.
- Jesus calls for wholehearted surrender.
- Luke 9:62 (CSB) But Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- The Gospel is free, but following Jesus costs your life.
- Show the next generation that Jesus is worth sacrificing for.

## 2 Kings 2:1–14 (CSB)

The time had come for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal, 2 and Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord is sending me on to Bethel.” But Elisha replied, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 3 Then the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said, “Do you know that the Lord will take your master away from you today?” He said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.” 4 Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; the Lord is sending me to Jericho.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. 5 Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho came up to Elisha and said, “Do you know that the Lord will take your master away from you today?” He said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.” 6 Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord is sending me to the Jordan.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. 7 Fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood observing them at a distance while the two of them stood by the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water, which parted to the right and left. Then the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9 When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken from you.” So Elisha answered, “Please, let me inherit two shares of your spirit.” 10 Elijah replied, “You have asked for something difficult. If you see me being taken from you, you will have it. If not, you won’t.” 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind. 12 As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, “My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!” When he could see him no longer, he took hold of his own clothes, tore them in two, 13 picked up the mantle that had fallen off Elijah, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the mantle Elijah had dropped, and he struck the water. “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” he asked. He struck the water himself, and it parted to the right and the left, and Elisha crossed over.

### 3. Remember: The Key to Discipleship is TIME and RELATIONSHIP.

- Elisha spent years walking closely with Elijah before leading publicly.
- Discipleship is life-on-life, not merely information transfer.
- The next generation needs access to our lives, not just our sermons.
- Spiritual growth is formed through ordinary consistent presence.
- Discipleship is long obedience in the same direction.

### 4. Remember: The Story outlives the messenger.

- Elijah’s ministry continued through Elisha.
- The mantle fell, and Elisha picked it up.
- Every generation is called to steward truth for the next generation.
- Movements built around one personality collapse, but disciple-making movements continue.
- The Gospel was never meant to stop with us.

### For Every Alaskan Challenge

- Who is shaping your walk with Jesus?
- Who are you bringing along behind you?
- Make sure your kids and grandkids don’t just inherit your last name — make sure they inherit your love for Jesus.
- One day all of us will hand off the mantle to somebody else.
- The question is whether we’ll leave behind a generation that knows Christ.