

I. Intro

A. Text: I Kings 19:19-21

¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."

And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

B. Context

1. Elijah has been given another assignment by the Lord.
2. Elijah walks by and throw's the Mantle on Elisha, and keeps walking.
3. Elisha request to go back and kiss his mother and father.
4. Elijah says, "What have I done to you".
5. Elisha returns for last meal with his family.
6. Elisha arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

II. Natural Man

James 5:17-18: *17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

- A. Elijah was used by God in miraculous ways, yet he was a natural man, like you and I.
- B. Elijah's obedience brought forth great results and caused other to know our Lord is God.

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- C. We should ask ourselves, does my obedience cause others to know our God is real.

III. Life Decision's

¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen* before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow you."

And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

²¹ So *Elisha* turned back from him, and *took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate*. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

- A. Elijah releases the mantle on Elisha. The mantle represented the authority and responsibility as God's chosen spokesman.
- B. Elijah obedience brought forth provision. He was feed by a raven and an angel.
- C. **Isaiah 1:19 (NKJV)**: ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;
- D. Job 36:11 If they obey and serve *Him*, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

IV. Elisha accepts the call.

- A. Elisha, ask to return and kiss his family, Elijah informs Elisha that's between you and God.
- B. Elisha, returns home for final meal. Some of us need to have a final meal with those that hinder our walk in the Lord.
- C. **John 10:10** The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

V. Life or Death

Deut. 30:15-20: ¹⁵ "Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶ For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in

his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. ¹⁷ “But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, ¹⁸ then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. ¹⁹ “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! ²⁰ You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey

- A. Deuteronomy defined as second law or reinstatement of the law.
- B. The Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years after the exodus from Egypt and Pharaoh’s hand.
- C. Moses declares this narrative to the new generation of Israelites. The children have now grown up and God is about to let them occupy the Promise Land.
- D. The new generation are given this second law as a reminder of the life God would prefer for them.
- E. Walk in his ways.
 - a. **Hebrews 11:6 AMPC** ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please *and* be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly *and* diligently seek Him [out].
- F. Live a long and good life.
 - a. **John 5:2-9 AMPC**

² Now there is in Jerusalem a pool near the Sheep Gate. This pool in the Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porches (alcoves, colonnades, doorways).³ In these lay a great number of sick folk—some blind, some crippled, and some paralyzed (shriveled up)—^[a] *waiting for the bubbling up of the water.* ⁴ *For an angel of the Lord went down at appointed seasons into the pool and moved and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was cured of whatever disease with which he was afflicted.* ⁵ There was a certain man there who had suffered with a deep-seated *and* lingering disorder for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus noticed him lying there [helpless], knowing that he had already been

a long time in that condition, He said to him, do you want to become well? [Are you really in earnest about getting well?]⁷ The invalid answered, Sir, I have nobody when the water is moving to put me into the pool; but while I am trying to come [into it] myself, somebody else steps down ahead of me.⁸ Jesus said to him, Get up! Pick up your bed (sleeping pad) and walk!⁹ Instantly the man became well *and* recovered his strength and picked up his bed and walked. But that happened on the Sabbath

G. Choose life (blessings)

- a. **Galatians 3:29 NLT**²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children^[a] of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

H. Renew your mind

- a. **Ephesians 4:22-24 AMPC**²² Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self-] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts *and* desires that spring from delusion;²³ And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude],²⁴ and put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

I. What God thinks of you?

- a. **Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- b. **Psalms 37:4** Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires

J. God's Handiwork.

- a. **Eph 2:10 AMPC Classic Edition**¹⁰ For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), ^[a]recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works

which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live] We are a handiwork, a masterpiece, we all have been made on purpose with purpose for a purpose. We are no accidents. We should all live as such and renew your mind to that level today. Think of yourself as God does, and choose life!