

ELIJAH PART 5 - HANDOUT

7.26.26

Big Idea: A faithful life isn't measured only by how we begin or what we accomplish, but by how faithfully we finish and what we leave behind.

I. GOD'S WORK IS BIGGER THAN ONE PERSON

1 Kings 19:15–19 ...¹⁹So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.

This is where Elijah's perspective has changed.

- Earlier in this chapter, Elijah said, "I am the only one left."
- God says, "No, Elijah. You aren't the end of the story."

Key Thought #1 God's work is never dependent on one person because God's purposes are always bigger than one generation.

Your family isn't ultimately dependent on your perfection. Your family is dependent on **God's faithfulness**. Your family doesn't need a perfect parent. **They need a faithful one.**

II. FAITHFULNESS MEANS PREPARING SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE

1 Kings 19:20–21 ...Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

Elijah doesn't just give Elisha a position...He gives him **proximity**.

The next generation isn't developed primarily through information...It's developed through **relationship and example**.

Key Thought #2 The greatest way to influence the next generation is to let them walk closely enough to see your faith lived out.

III. FINISHING WELL REQUIRES FAITHFULNESS TO THE END

2 Kings 2:1–6 ¹When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel...

4 Years have passed...Elijah is nearing the end of his earthly ministry.

- Elijah understands the value of walking with a godly mentor.

- That's the goal...Not just to start strong...**To finish faithful.**

Key Thought #3 Faithfulness isn't proven by how passionately you start, but by how faithfully you finish.

IV. YOUR GREATEST IMPACT MAY COME FROM WHAT YOU PASS ON

2 Kings 2:7–10 ...⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

¹⁰“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

- He's not asking for Elijah's fame...He's asking for Elijah's faith.
- He's not asking for Elijah's platform...He's asking for Elijah's purpose.

Key Thought #4 The greatest legacy you can leave isn't what you give your children—it is what you teach them to give to others.

V. SOMETIMES GOD TAKES THE SERVANT, BUT THE MISSION CONTINUES

2 Kings 2:11–12 ...¹²Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Elisha doesn't say, “My prophet.” He says, **“My father.”** Elijah had become a spiritual father to him.

Key Thought #5 A successful life isn't measured by how many people follow you, but by how many people are prepared to follow Jesus after you're gone.

2 Kings 2:13–16

The mantle was passed. The God who worked through Elijah...is now working through Elisha.

Elijah's story ends with a mantle being passed. Jesus' story continues with a mission being passed. And now...**It's our turn.**

The question is not: *“Will someone take my place?”* The question is: **“Will I have prepared them well?”**

The greatest legacy is this: **Someone else knows Jesus because you were faithful.**

LIFE POINT: Finish faithfully. Invest intentionally. Pass the mantle.