

The Time Is Now:
Preparation Time
July 2, 2017

I **SLIDE** Get Ready

A) **1 Kings 19:21 (NIV)** ²¹ So Elisha left [Elijah] and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

- 1) **Luke 9:23 (NIV)** ²³ Then [Jesus] said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
- 2) Elisha did this, and we are to do the same
- 3) God's plan included the melding (blending or merging) of one generation with another.
- 4) Too often the generations oppose each other
- 5) Too often the younger generation waits for the older generation to "get out of the way" so they can move up
- 6) Too often the older generation sees the younger generation as upstarts, disrespectful, entitled, lazy,
- 7) "The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers. Attributed to SOCRATES by Plato,
- 8) Similarly, the younger generation often views the older generation as too set in their ways
- 9) They view the younger generation sees the older generation as unwilling to change, judgmental, boring, old-fashioned, stuck in the good-old-days,
- 10) These views on both sides can be accurate, but...

B) **SLIDE** This is not God's way

- 1) We are not operating according to the world's standards; we are operating under Kingdom standards
- 2) Supplant vs. Replace
 - a) No one can take my place at school because I am unique
 - b) Yet, someone will take my place
 - c) Elisha was not supplanting Elijah; he was replacing him
 - d) Elijah and Elisha were not competing; they were working as one
 - e) They were yoked together to serve God
- 3) Elijah does not object to placing his cloak on Elisha.
- 4) He does not see that as a threat to his ministry
- 5) He is not jealous.
- 6) **SLIDE** With God, jealousy should never enter into the equation
 - a) David and King Saul
 - b) Joshua and Moses
 - c) Samuel and Eli
 - d) Joseph and Pharaoh
- 7) Jealousy divides the generations
 - a) King Saul and David
 - b) Joseph and his brothers
 - c) Miriam and Aaron - Moses
 - d) Disciples - who is the greatest
- 8) Scriptures
 - a) **1 Corinthians 3:3** You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?
 - b) **1 Corinthians 13:4** - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.
 - c) **James 3:16** - For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.
- 9) These messages are not about lifting up the youth at the expense of the older generation

- 10) They are not about placating the older generation at the expense of the younger
- 11) They are teaching us how to move forward at this critical time!
- C) **SLIDE** Elijah and Elisha's example
 - 1) Elijah does not resist the change but embraces it.
 - 2) God had used Elijah to get Israel to this point.
 - 3) God will use Elisha to get Israel past this point.
 - 4) God has used me to get Cornerstone to this point
 - 5) He will use another to get Cornerstone past this point
 - 6) But, like with Elijah, I am not through
 - 7) This transition from one generation to another is vital to the church.
 - 8) Elisha is not more important than Elijah, or vice versa.
 - 9) **SLIDE** Elijah and Elisha have shown us HOW; Jesus has shown us the WAY.
 - 10) **Luke 14:28 (NIV)** [Jesus said,]²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"
 - 11) Elisha gave it all up to become Elijah's attendant.
 - 12) Again, this shows us how the generations are to work together. Elisha does not try to usurp Elijah, and Elijah does not try to undermine Elisha.
 - 13) Elisha is content to serve Elijah, learn, and wait for his term to serve.

II **SLIDE** Elijah and Elisha Yoked Together.... Now What?

A) Timeline

- 1) 858 B.C. - Elijah places his cloak on Elisha
- 2) 857 B.C. - Ben-Hadad attacks Samaria
- 3) 855 B.C. - Ahab takes Naboth's Vineyard
- 4) 852 B.C. - Moab rebels
- 5) 851 B.C. - Elijah taken up to heaven - Elisha succeeds Elijah

B) **SLIDE** Transition

- 1) The transition from one generation to another took seven years
- 2) During that time, Elijah continued to serve as God's prophet
- 3) During that time, Elisha learned from Elijah by observing and serving this man of God
- 4) **2 Kings 3:11 (NIV)** [When Israel was at war with Moab] ¹¹ ... Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD through him?" An officer of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."
- 5) **SLIDE** Elisha was known as the one who poured water on the hands of Elijah
- 6) Elisha was not embarrassed of that reputation; he embraced it
- 7) It spoke of humility, love, servanthood, obedience
- 8) **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)** ³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- 9) Those seven years were not wasted; they were a time to wait upon the Lord

C) **SLIDE** **Isaiah 40:31 (AMP)** But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] / Will gain new strength *and* renew their power; / They will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like eagles [rising toward the sun]; / They will run and not become weary, / They will walk and not grow tired.

- 1) When we began this messages about Elijah and Elisha, I shared that, like Elijah, I had run to that cave
- 2) I felt that my time was over and that I was alone
- 3) The best course was for me to step aside
- 4) My control had gotten in the way, and I needed to step aside so someone else could fix things
- 5) Well, I was wrong
- 6) However, I still find myself slipping into old mindsets
- 7) We have been on these messages for six months

- 8) It does not seem much has changed so I find myself wanting to help Jesus to make something happen
- 9) I need to try more so you will not get discouraged
- 10) When I update the church app, we have very little under the Events tab while other churches are doing one thing after another
- 11) I feel we are falling behind, missing God
- 12) Fortunately, I know that is the wrong attitude and approach
- 13) Six months to God is a blink of an eye
- 14) We are in that waiting upon the Lord stage so He can renew our strength and power
- 15) We are learning to walk, run, and fly like never before
- 16) God does not need our help; He needs our participation