

## The Time Is Now

June 11, 2017

### I **SLIDE** Bob Stoops

#### A) Shocking news

- 1) After 18 seasons, Bob Stoops resigned as head coach at OU
- 2) Pre-season ranking: OSU #5; OU # 8
- 3) Oklahoma football is at its best
- 4) Stoops resignation was a surprise and a shock

#### B) His reason

- 1) **SLIDE** Stoops stated, "I felt I just didn't want to miss the right opportunity to be able to step away and hand this baton off to Lincoln Riley and to help this all just keep going in a great direction. The time is now because Lincoln Riley will provide a seamless transition as the new head coach, capitalizing on an excellent staff that is already in place and providing familiarity and confidence for our players. Now is simply the ideal time for me and our program to make this transition."
- 2) **SLIDE** He continued, "The Bible says, 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.' I'm grateful for this season of my life, and feel I've fulfilled my purpose here at OU as its head football coach."
- 3) As I read his statements, I immediately thought of Elijah and Elisha and the messages God has been giving us
- 4) I never imagined that OU football would provide a confirmation of God's word
- 5) Stoops is stepping down with the program in great shape.
- 6) He is doing so because Lincoln Riley is his "Elisha"
- 7) He cares more for the program than for his reputation
- 8) Stoops is not quitting or leaving.
- 9) He will continue to serve in whatever way he can
- 10) This is a picture of the way the church should transition.
- 11) This is a message for us.

## II **SLIDE** Return to Elijah and Elisha

A) **1 Kings 19:19-20 (NIV)** <sup>19</sup> So 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. <sup>20</sup> Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

### B) Suddenly

- 1) God had been preparing this transition for a long time
- 2) He had been moving people into the right places and preparing their hearts
- 3) However, neither Elijah nor Elisha were aware of this transition until God's revelation in that cave.
- 4) Nevertheless, God was at work.
  - 1) While Elijah was fighting the darkness, Elisha was home plowing his fields
  - 2) While Elijah was being fed by ravens, Elisha was home eating well at his table.
  - 3) While Elijah was being molded by these intense, dramatic events, so was Elisha.
  - 4) God was preparing them for a "Suddenly"
- 5) **SLIDE Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)** <sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.
- 6) Elijah left that cave and went to Elisha's home
- 7) Elisha was plowing when Elijah shows up and places his cloak around Elisha's shoulders
- 8) A simple, sudden act for which Elisha was ready

### B) Elisha

- 1) Probably in his 20's
- 2) Wealthy family - 12 yoke of oxen indicates a huge operation

- 3) We might think he would be a spoiled, rich kid
- 4) But, God calls people from all walks of life
- 5) Our lives do not qualify or disqualify us from service because God looks at the heart
- 6) Remember, Elisha was living under the rule of Ahab and Jezebel
- 7) He was living in a nation that rejected God and His word, where sin was accepted, and where God's word was vilified
- 8) Today's example
  - a) Bernie Sanders
    - i) President Trump nominated Russell Vought to be deputy director of White House Office of Management and Budget
    - ii) At his hearings, Sen. Bernie Sanders, who came close to winning the Democratic nomination, stated that Vought was unsuitable for office because he is "really not someone who this country is supposed to be about."
    - iii) What is wrong with Russell Vought? He is a Christian who had previously written that those who do not believe in Jesus Christ are not saved.
    - iv) **SLIDE Sen. Sanders:** "'Muslims do not simply have a deficient theology. They do not know God because they have rejected Jesus Christ, His Son, and they stand condemned.' Do you believe that that statement is Islamophobic?"
    - v) **Mr. Vought:** "Absolutely not, Senator. I'm a Christian, and I believe in a Christian set of principles based on my faith..."
    - vi) **Sanders:** "...Forgive me, we just don't have a lot of time. Do you believe people in the Muslim religion stand condemned? Is that your view?"
    - vii) **Vought:** "Again, Senator, I'm a Christian, and I wrote that piece in accordance with the statement of faith at Wheaton College..."
    - viii) **SLIDE Sanders:** "I understand that. I don't know how many Muslims there are in America. Maybe a couple million.

Are you suggesting that these people stand condemned?  
What about Jews? Do they stand condemned too?"

ix) **Vought**: "Senator, I'm a Christian..."

x) **Sanders** [shouting]: "I understand you are a Christian, but this country [is] made of people who are not just -- I understand that Christianity is the majority religion, but there are other people of different religions in this country and around the world. In your judgment, do you think that people who are not Christians are going to be condemned?"

xi) **SLIDE Vought**: "Thank you for probing on that question. As a Christian, I believe that all individuals are made in the image of God and are worthy of dignity and respect regardless of their religious beliefs. I believe that as a Christian that's how I should treat all individuals..."

xii) **Sanders**: "...Do you think that's respectful of other religions?... I would simply say, Mr. Chairman that this nominee is really not someone who this country is supposed to be about."

b) A principal of a high school was set to retire June 30

i) He said at graduation that his faith in Jesus had helped him

ii) He was suspended until his retirement for mentioning Jesus

9) Beaches around this nation are being inundated with topless swimmers, and they do not know what to do because people have a right to go topless. Activist Chelsea Covington showed up at Ocean Beach in Maryland arguing that ordering women to cover up is gender discrimination. So police were order to leave the women alone.

10) Going topless is legal in 15 states; only three (and OK is not one) have laws making it illegal

11) In the midst of this and more, God is preparing a generation who will answer His call

- 12) **SLIDE John 17:16-18 (CJB)** <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Set them apart for holiness by means of the truth — your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> Just as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.
- 13) Elijah was not of the world, but God was sending him back into that world
- 14) Elisha was not of the world, but God was sending him into that world
- 15) We are not of this world, but He is sending us into it
- 16) Elijah and Elisha were sent together - a generational hand-off
- C) Sudden call was met with an immediate response
- 1) The cloak=a sign of Elijah's office or position as a prophet of God
  - 2) It was a sign of the gift God had given him.
  - 3) All he had to do was place the cloak on Elisha, and Elisha was ready
  - 4) Elisha does not ask for details. He responds.
  - 5) God had been preparing Elisha's heart just as He had prepared Esther's, David's, Mary's, Joseph's, Joshua's
  - 6) Elisha was ready without knowing he was ready
  - 7) Important, Elisha did not step up to replace Elijah; he stepped up to serve and learn from Elijah
  - 8) Elisha and Elijah both knew that God was using them both to bring about a great change
  - 9) God was not through with Elijah and was not ready for Elisha
  - 10) Instead, He was ready for both to walk together
- D) The Time is now
- 1) God is on the move, and we need to move with Him
  - 2) We cannot continue to do things the same way we have been
  - 3) It is time for all of us to get involved

STOP

## II The Call

A) **1 Kings 19:20 (NIV)** <sup>20</sup> Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

- 1) God is calling Elisha, not Elijah
- 2)

B) **Luke 9:59-60 (NIV)** <sup>59</sup> [Jesus] said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

<sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

C) Another conflict?

STOP

## III **SLIDE** Coalgate

A) Our small town

- 1) Jed and Jesse
- 2) Ridge and his wife
- 3) Tommy and Katie
- 4) Clayton and Tina
- 5) Rhett
- 6) Bridgette Delsigne
- 7) Brandon and Tonya Long
- 8) Major Brandon and Britton Young
- 9) **SLIDE** Makaela Barnes-Elkins

Sign from hospital

- 10) However, unlike his earlier ministry, Elijah was not to go alone
- 11) For Elijah to accomplish what God had ordered, he needed Elisha by his side

- 12) **SLIDE** What a beautiful picture of what God wants for us
- 13) Two generations working side-by-side: Elijah was to teach Elisha, and Elisha was to serve Elijah
- 14) At the beginning of this year, I was ready to step down and hide in that cave
- 15) I know now that is not what God wanted
- 16) I also know that a transition is coming, and we cannot - I cannot - move forward without an Elisha, without the next generation
- 17) Next week we take a closer look at Elijah and the youth

## **STOP**

### **B) Youth**

- 1) I feel very strongly that we need our youth are not just our future
- 2) They are part of our present
- 3) We need them not to fill classes or entice parents to come
- 4) We need them so we can support what the parents are doing, help build them up, equip them to take their places, teach them to fight the good fight of faith.
- 5) I know we have not done well in this area in the past
- 6) This is one reason we are going back so we can regroup and move forward
- 7) If you have children, get them involved
- 8) If you have children and have suggestions as to what you would like to see done, let us know
- 9) Listen carefully, and we can hear *God's Carry On Call*
- 10) Jed and Jesse
- 11) Tommy and his wife
- 12) Ridge and his wife
- 13) Calyton and Tina
- 14) Brandon and his wife

- 15) Makaela
- 16) Bridgette Delisigne
- 17) Rhett