

Elijah Joins Jesus' Disciples

Promise: that the prophetic word can make us Christ's disciples

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps 50:1-6; 2Co 3:12-13; 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

(The Transfiguration of Our Lord, 2/14/21)

And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. – v. 11

Lead In – When I say that Elijah was there along with Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration I mean that literally. For when Jesus was transfigured before the three disciples He had led up the mountain, there also appeared Elijah and Moses. Accordingly, this morning I want us to consider what we can learn from Elijah and Elisha about being Christ's disciples...

I. Just Who Is Elisha?

- Elijah's protégé and the sons of prophets...
- Why are you spending all that time in school?
- Jesus mentored his disciples for three years...

II. Importance of the Willingness to Learn

- Why the seeming reticence on Elijah's part?
- A "Moses-Like" gesture on Elijah's part...
- Elisha asks *BIG!* The double portion... *heir apparent*

III. A Precursor Event to the Transfiguration

- The dramatic event does not replace the tedious...
- We do not live in the dramatic yet!
- Meanwhile there are vocations to be about...

Parting Shot – So whether or not you have had any mountain top dramatic epiphanies, you have not been shortchanged in the training to be Christ's disciple or in the gift to receive the inheritance. Take it on the authority of one of those there on the Mount of Transfiguration, the Apostle Peter. He who witnessed the majesty of the Divine Glory, assures us, that we all have something better, and more sure. We have the prophetic word to which we do well to pay attention...

Mentorship around a *father* figure – sons of....

Js 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Lk 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Lk 9:60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Lk 9:62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." (Bethel, Jericho, the Jordan)

Mt 7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Lk 11:13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

2 Kings 2:1-12 ESV

Comfort for God's People

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

In the Lord's Prayer we have been instructed to ask for nothing less than the kingdom to come to us...

Lk 9:23-24 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Mk 9:8-9 And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

2Pe 1:19 ...as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

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