

ELISHA: A PROPHET OF GOD

1 Kings 19:15-21

Introduction:

1. It has been a while so I thought we would engage in a character study. Character studies are good because they not only teach u valuable principles from the word of God, but we get to see them in a person's life. Seeing others live faithfully makes it easier for us to walk in the light.
2. This morning, let us consider Elisha, a prophet of God. Let us consider who he was, what he did, and what we can learn from him.

Discussion:

I. Who he was.

- A. He was the son of Shaphat from Abel Mehola (in West Manasseh half-way between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea). His family was a wealthy one (twelve yoke of oxen plowing their field).
- B. Elijah, per God's command (v16), came to Elisha and began to train him as his eventual replacement.
- C. The next time we see Elisha is at the time of Elijah's departure in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1).
 1. Elijah asked Elisha for a "farewell gift" and Elisha's request was for a double portion of Elijah's spirit (v9).
 2. Elisha took up Elijah's mantle (v13)!! The passing on of power from Elijah to Elisha is illustrated by the dividing of the waters with Elijah's mantle (vv 8, 14).
 3. Elisha carries on with the spirit of Elijah (v15).

II. What he did.

- A. Despite the initial doubt of his servants (2 Kings 2:16-18), Elisha's work for God was to continue the work of Elijah. This work was to be a constant goad against the evil rulers of the Northern Kingdom and a defender of the faith for God.
- B. Elisha's miracles and other works.
 1. He healed the waters at Jericho (2 Kings 2:19-22).
 2. He cursed the young men who were teasing him and they were killed (2 Kings 2:23-25).
 3. He gave the signs so that Moab could be defeated (2 Kings 3).
 4. He increased the widows oil so she could pay her debts (2 Kings 4:1-7).
 5. He blessed the Shunammite woman with a son and then raised him from the dead (2 Kings 4:8-37).
 6. He cured his followers from poison (2 Kings 4:38-41).
 7. He gave food to many during a famine (2 Kings 4:42-44; cp. John 6; Mk. 8).
 8. He told Naaman how to be healed of his leprosy and cursed Gehazi with leprosy (2 Kings 5).
 9. He floated the lost axe head of his servant (2 Kings 6:1-7).
 10. He defended Israel against Syria (2 Kings 6:8-23).
 11. He fed Samaria while they were besieged by Syria (2 Kings 6:24-7:20).
 12. He spared the Shunammite woman the suffering from a 7 year famine against Israel and then his reputation got her her land back (2 Kings 8:1-6).
 13. He predicted the recovery/death of Ben-Hadad and the rise of Hazael (2 Kings 8:7-15).
 14. He had Jehu anointed king of Israel and predicted/charged him with the punishment of the house of Ahab (2 Kings 9-10).
 15. On his deathbed he tested Joash, the king of Israel, and predicted Israel's suffering at the hand of Hazael (2 Kings 13:14-19).
 16. After he died, Israelites were burying a man when Moab attacked, so they put him in Elisha's grave and when he touched Elisha the dead man revived (2 Kings 13:20, 21).

III. What we can learn from him.

- A. When called to serve God, we answer (1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 9:57-62; 18:18-24; Is. 6).
- B. We must focus on the invisible and not the visible (2 Kings 2:12-18; 3:14; 6:15-17; 2 Cor. 4:16-18).
- C. Nothing done for the Lord is “little” or in vain (Healed the waters of a great city vs. helped a widow pay her debts; Feeding a people during famine vs. floating a poor man’s borrowed axe head; 1 Cor. 15:58; Titus 3:14).
- D. Sorrow and frustration are to be expected by the followers of God (2 Kings 2:12; 8:11, 12; 13:16-19; John 15; Is. 53:3-5; et al).

Conclusion:

- 1. There are so many more lessons we could learn from the life of Elisha as it is recorded in the Bible. Let me encourage you to explore his life in more detail and contemplate/share/discuss the lessons with family and/or friends.
- 2. Truly these were written for our admonition (1 Cor. 10:11).
- 3. Invitation.

PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING AUGUST 27th

Those with long term issues

Audrey Brostrom, Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes, and Harrison Waldron.

Those with short term issues

- ▶ Darrell McKee as he continues his fight against cancer.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues.
- ▶ Tony and Lynnette Galbier as the time of the birth of their daughter nears.
- ▶ That John Pellin might find a place to live closer to the building.
- ▶ Cassandra Foster, Buzzy Nelsen’s granddaughter, who has three young daughters, is battling cancer, and just lost her home to a fire.
- ▶ Our members who are struggling with sickness/colds/injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling.
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.