

**Introduction:**

- Appeals are made by faith. Faith put us into the promises. The promises reveal the glory of God. I want to continue today in the whole realm of living a life of appeal.
- 2 Kings 1:3; 2:1-15
- Today's message is journey in Faith Prayer and Power. It is a message to stir us more in the deposit that our guest speaker Jeff Jansen brought last weekend. There is a lifestyle of revival that we are invited to live daily. I do not want to be an event called revival. I want to live it daily.
- This passage is filled with lots of symbolism and prophetic pictures of the future.
- Our premise this morning is this: If you want to walk in the anointing you must keep your eyes on the Anointed! Elisha was charged with keeping his eyes on Elijah if he wanted to receive a double portion.

**I. The Questions Are Important in Light of the Anointing**

- A. There are three relevant questions in the first two chapters:
  1. Is there no God in Israel?
  2. What can I do for you?
  3. Where is the Lord God of Elijah?
  4. Why is not a question that is asked?
- B. "Why?" is not the right question to be asking God.
  1. Why implies a victim mentality. It is focused on self and is really a self pity perspective.
  2. Why most usually will have to do with self/you. A better question might be, "How am I supposed to see God in light of this situation?"
  3. We have to get out of the victim mentality if we are to ever achieve a place of walking victoriously in the power of the Spirit. Asking the right questions therefore is of the utmost importance.
  4. Elisha knew that Elijah was going to be leaving him. He had been Elijah's servant for at least six years. He had been mentored by Elijah
- C. Is there no God in Israel? 1 Kings 1:3,6,16.
  1. This is the question that starts the book of 1 Kings. It is a question that is asked purposely to move the reader to a place of answering, "YES!!!"
    - a) It is a question that we all face and that we all must answer. If we have not answered it we will follow what ever god is foremost in the culture. The world is asking this question.
    - b) It is kind of amazing that this king refuses to acknowledge Elijah who threw down his mother Jezebel and the 'other Godly' prophets who prophesied his father's death.
  2. There are consequences to not answering it correctly. 100 men and two officers die. Finally the King Ahaziah dies and with no son for the throne.
  3. The whole book of second Kings is an answer to that question. (Is there no God in Israel?) Those who call upon the name of the Lord do well and those who do not, it does not end well...for them or their nation.

**II. The Journey Is Important In Light of the Anointing**

- A. Context: Elijah is about to be taken away from Elisha. There is not clear reason in scripture as to why Elijah asks Elisha to stay behind at each of these places. I think there are two choices: a. Elijah knows he is going to die and wants that to be a private thing. b. Elijah knows he has something for Elisha if Elisha is willing to go after it.
- B. They make four stops along the way to the place of double anointing. (The Places)
  1. Gilgal-I will call this our salvation experience. Circumcision. Blood. Covenant.
    - a) Heb-*gālal* means to roll some object on, upon, away, in, against, from, together.

- b) Joshua used *gālal* symbolically when he said, after the circumcision of the Israelites, “This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt” (Josh 5:19) and the place was named Gilgal—a word play on *gālal*.
  - c) This figure is used for rolling oneself on the Lord and so to trust the Lord (Ps 22:8) or to commit one’s behavior or life to the Lord (Ps 37:5; Prov 16:3) or remove such non-material things as reproach and contempt (Ps 119:22).
  - d) It is the place where you forget the old life and are made new. To stop here is to stop at the doorway of more to God. The danger is leading a life of religious activity without any power. Elijah refused to stay here.
2. Bethel
- a) Bethel means house or dwelling place. When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he set up a pillar of stones on which he had slept, poured oil on them, and called the place *bêt-ēl*, emphasizing God’s revelation of himself there. It is a place of making a decision to go further with God...to know Him.
  - b) It is also a place of great decisions. Abraham, Jacob, Samuel first heard God there. But it is also the place where King Saul lost everything. Jeroboam worshipped Baal.
  - c) Bethel was a Canaanite and Israelite town, that were both central worship centers. So it also serves as place of religious systems. Yes, you learn much about God in House but if you just stay there you enter a system and a relationship with God.
  - d) (The people) - school of prophets 18-40 years of age. “Your master will be taken from you today.” Not encouraging to Elisha.
3. Jericho
- a) Jericho - the place of fragrance/pleasantness. It is also the place of testimony of God prevailing though his people’s obedience. It is symbolic of warfare. You must fight to take ground here.
  - b) The negative side of Jericho is that it is the place of warfare. Many people stop here without moving beyond the city to take the land. It is right on the edge of your miracle. Elisha refused to stop here.
  - c) (The people) - school of prophets 18-40 years of age. “Your master will be taken from you today.” Not encouraging to Elisha.
4. Jordan- Most scholars would derive the name from the verb *yārad* “to descend,” Theological Wordbook of OT.
- a) It was symbolic of humility. To descend. Jesus went down into the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist. It is seen as the barrier to the promise of God and usually involves a dearth to self.
  - b) It was symbolic of death and the giving of new identity. Especially in the context of waters parting. The Jordan is where you begin to see beyond the natural and into the Spirit. Israel had to pass through it to get to promised land. Elijah to his promise. Elisha to his promise. Jesus to his promise. New Identities.
  - c) (The people) a group of 50 prophets who came and watched from a distance. They had the Word of the Lord but the wrong response.

### III. Our Focus Is Important In Light of the Anointing

#### A. What can I do for you?

1. Note: Elijah and Elisha are now on the other side of the river. There is nothing there. Desert.

2. Elijah, knows that Elisha is after something. He has refused to 'not follow him' in spite of having the knowledge that Elijah was going to be taken from him. It is obvious he is after something! "What can I do for you?" How can I serve you? You have served me for six years, how can I serve you?
  3. The son of Man came to serve not to be served. "*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others ...*" (Mark 10:45, NLT)
  4. vs 9. "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit!" Elisha is asking for twice the anointing of his mentor Elijah. He already has the mantle/calling of Elijah. 1 Kings 19:19. God wants us to have a double portion. He does not want us to just 'get by' in this life. He doesn't want us to just be 'saved' He wants us empowered!
    - a) Jn 10:10 *I have come that you have life and have it abundantly!*
    - b) "*I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*" (John 14:12, NLT) That passage in John 14 is not a 'get by' scripture.
  5. You ask a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken from you then you will get your request. **If you want to walk in the anointing you must keep your eyes on the Anointed! Jesus!**
    - a) You can stop at Gilgal - salvation
    - b) You can stop at Bethel - knowing who He is.
    - c) You can stop at Jericho - Settled in the benefits of serving God
    - d) You can stop at Jordan - the place of humility, dying to self.
    - e) You can stop at any of those place but why stop when there is a double portion anointing waiting for you to pick it up.
- B.** There were none who were endowed with the Spirit of god and the Power of God like Elijah. Elisha wasn't satisfied just being one of the prophets (just being a christian.) He understood that there was something very different about Elijah and that is what Elisha wanted to have. He didn't settle for the life of the mediocre but charged ahead, against all odds, to become a great prophet like Elijah.
- C.** The supernatural separated them and the supernatural took each of them to a higher level!
1. Elijah was separated from the natural realm.
  2. Elisha tore his old garment and picked up Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak.
- D.** Where is the Lord the God of Elijah?
1. He did not ask, "Where is Elijah?" He asked where is the God of Elijah? I believe it is a question he asks so that those who are watching from a distance hear... *Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?* "I'll show you where He is at! Right here!" Bam! Jordan splits.
  2. The key to having the Double Portion and doing the "greater works" than even Jesus did while He walked on this earth is this: You must have faith that Jesus is the Son of God. You must have faith that He will give you God's best. You must have faith that He will keep that which you commit unto Him. You must believe that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. Finally, you must continue to follow Him to the end.
  3. Surely this life is sometimes hard. We grow weary in well doing. We long for the day of His Glorious Appearing and we want to stop. But, there are many who like the 5 foolish virgins of the parable of Jesus. They are not watching close enough. They aren't staying on fire for God. They have been lulled to sleep and their excitement for the things of God has gone out. They aren't the light of the world anymore because Satan has covered their light with a bushel called Cares of this Life.

4. Think on this: 2 Kings 13:21 a dead man touches the bones of Elisha and raised to life. He was buried with the bones of an anointed man and he lived again! But we have been buried with Christ in baptism. And if that same Spirit which raised Christ from the dead be in us them...*“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”* (Romans 8:11, NLT)

**Conclusion:**

- We have to want this. For ourselves and for others.
- We have to go a little further in pursuit of God.
- We have to grow more in faith.
- We have to pick up what is given.