

2 Kings 2:1-18
Elijah taken into Heaven
March 29th, 2015

Let's review:

- God provided food, salvation and protection for the widow and for Elijah.
- Right before the showdown between God and Baal, Elijah challenges “God’s chosen people” to either follow Baal or to follow God.
- Elijah’s effective prayers!
- Jesus speaks of Elijah in Mark 9 and in Luke 4:24-26, validating this account of Elijah!

Right after Elijah’s “sulking moments” he meets God and tells Elijah there is 7,000 people in Israel that are true God followers. So Elijah heads out to find them (1 Kings 19:11-18).

So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. **1 Kings 19:19**

This was a symbol of Elijah’s ministry being passed on to Elisha. The mantle/cloak was an indication of authority and responsibility of God’s spokesperson/prophet. Elisha would have not been confused by what Elijah was doing. He would have known that Elijah has chosen him to carry out God’s work.

Elisha visualized Elijah as the father of his faith!

Just like Elijah clearly called Elisha, if you are a believer, God has called you to salvation and to be his spokesperson. God didn’t leave us to do this on our own; He left us Himself, the Holy Spirit.

Notice the similarities between Elijah and Elisha and believers and God (Holy Spirit).

- 1) Like Elisha, we are to follow our master!

So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant. **1 Kings 19:21**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **Matthew 16:24**

Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” **Mark 10:28-31**

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. **Matthew 4:19-20**

When we **waver** (with out getting back on track) in our following is when our faith becomes **weak**!

- 2) Elisha was steadfastly **determined** to go where his master went; **we** should also.
- Elijah told Elisha three times to “stay here”. Elisha wanted to go with his master. I believe it was a test of faith for Elisha. (2 Kings 2:1-7)
 - The sons of prophets even told Elisha that his master would be going away today but it didn’t detour him.
 - Discouragement to follow and continue after Jesus will come. Expect it. However, the more you know and follow Jesus the more the “discouragement” seems to fade into the background.

So how are we to remain steadfastly determined?

- Remember God’s **past** working in and around you! God’s past and evident working always **fuels** future faith.
 - Remaining in God’s Word and in prayer
 - Remaining with God’s **People**
- 3) Elisha **boldly** requested a double portion of Elijah’s spirit (God’s) and it was granted (2 Kings 2: 9-10). God has left us with His Spirit as believers.

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”
John 7:37

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.
Acts 2:32-33

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
1 John 4:13

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
2 Corinthians 1:21-22

This morning we celebrate God’s Spirit being with us. As a believer, God is with you through the Holy Spirit.

So this morning, as we celebrate God’s body and blood given for you and me. Be thankful He has left us with His Spirit. He did this through His death, burial and resurrection.

Are you following Him? Are you determined to go where He leads? Do you need to be reminded or maybe just reassured that as a believer we have His Spirit? Be encouraged today that He is with us, the same God that was with Elijah.

We have His love, grace, kindness, patience, gentleness, self-control, joy, love, peace, goodness and gentleness! These are the Fruits of the Spirit of God.