

## Elijah: Channel of God's Power

# The Plan of God

*"When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal."* - 2 Kings 2:1

### The Arrangements

It's a fairly well-known fact that Elijah's days are numbered.

Elisha's intent is to not let him go. (emotion-driven)

Elisha doesn't set the standard for obedience. (3 times)

*"One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, 'Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?' 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow."* - John 18:26-27

Elijah draws a line in the sand... or water.

### The Appeal

Elijah understands that Elisha's not going to leave him alone. Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

*"Elisha saw this and cried out, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!' And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart."* - 2 Kings 2:12

### The Attention-Getter

God's got a bigger plan than we can imagine. (Eph. 3)

Elisha grieves the loss of his mentor.

Notice that God intervenes in a spectacular fashion... while Elisha is trying to work against His plan.

*"He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan."* - 2 Kings 2:13

### The Acceptance

Elisha picked up the cloak... and calling!

*"He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan."* - 2 Kings 2:13

He's seen this cloak before...

*"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."* - 1 Kings 19:19

Last time he was reluctant, this time he accepts God's call.

### The Affirmation

#1... Parting of the Jordan... just like Elijah had done.

God's Company of Prophets.

The closest followers still needed confirmation. Why?

#2... Curing of the water... Elisha uses a bowl of salt

*"You are the salt of the earth..."* - Matthew 5:13

God's provision of peace

#3... Elisha is jeered... Taunting God's guy is equal to defying God Himself.

God's protection of His presence

### Our Application

1. The "company of prophets" sometimes causes confusion and distraction... even though they're "God's guys".
2. Getting tied up in our plan instead of God's plan wastes time and energy.
3. Obedience builds trust... both ways.
4. Acceptance of God's call breeds deeper fellowship with Him.
5. The result of participating in God's plan is power, protection and provision.
6. Getting on God's plan means we complete God's vision and doesn't require us convince others that we're right.

### What we have learned in this series:

1. We have learned that no matter how godly we may be, there are still times of growing and stretching in our faith. (Even Biblical giants have problems!)
2. We have learned that God has a plan, a response and a lesson for every situation that we face, and that obedience is the key to our continued spiritual growth.

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