

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS
BECOMING A MAN OF GOD
1 KINGS 19:15-21; 2 KINGS 2:2, 4, 6, 9-18**

Introduction

I was blessed to grow up in an independent, fundamental, Bible believing, Baptist Church. **In our Church I had the opportunity to be in the presence of many men who at one time or another were great servants for the LORD!** That continued as **I went to Bible School and heard many great men of God in the Chapel services of TTU.**

Every man of God that I have been blessed to hear or be in the presence of have in some degree or way had an influence in my life and ministry!

Sadly, some started out great for the LORD, but then something happened and they drifted from that call of God on their lives. **But thank God there were many who remained were faithful to the end of their life! I thank God especially for those whose life and ministry and faithfulness were a consistent testimony to me as well as others!**

In our text tonight, **we see Elijah pass his mantle and ministry to Elisha who had a desire in his life to do even greater things for God than Elijah did!**

As I look today, that seems to be something that is dwindling today! **What we need today is more servants of God like Elijah and Elisha!**

What does it take to follow a great servant of God? What does it take to become a man of God? I want us to look tonight at:
“BECOMING A MAN OF GOD.”

Now to begin with I want to flash back for a few minutes here at Elisha’s beginning in the ministry. That’s because we’ve already seen some things in his life that were essential in him becoming the man of God that he was!

- I. BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES THE CALL OF GOD! (1 Kings 19:15-16)**
The LORD is the One Who told Elijah to anoint Elisha to be a prophet in his place!

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The call of God is absolutely essential to being a man of God!
Sadly, there are some who have been placed in places of leadership who are not genuine men of God.

Some are mama called or daddy called or preacher called or Church called, but **to be a true man of God in the ministry takes God’s call on one’s life!**

Elijah is NOT the one that called Elisha to ministry! The LORD was!

- BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES THE CALL OF GOD!*
II. BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES THE ANOINTING OF GOD! (1 Kings 19:15-16, 19)

Scripture says that after hearing instructions from the LORD, Elijah went to find Elisha and he found him busy plowing.

Elijah passed by Elisha and “cast his mantle upon him” which was a recognition and an indication that the call of God was upon Elisha!

It would be about the same as an ordination service when a Church, along with some other men of God recognize the call of God on men today and ordain them into the ministry!

A Church must be cautious to sense the call and anointing on a preacher’s life. I say that because there are some who may have an degree of some sort and a sheet of paper saying they were ordained of men, but **the call of God and the ordination of God is more important and that comes with a recognizable anointing!**

- III. BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES A BUSYNESS!**
A. When God Called Elisha He Was Busy Laboring!
1 Kings 19:19– “...who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him...”
Let me say this—There is no room for laziness in the ministry!

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Some folks have no idea how much work there is in ministry!
But there is work and it is not for the lazy!

Scripture says that Elijah found Elisha busy plowing!
He was NOT lazy! He was one who was used to laboring!

- B. When Elisha Answered God's Call In Following After Elijah He Was Busy With Labor!**
1 Kings 19:21– “Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered to him.”
He went from plowing for his dad to plowing for the LORD!
- C. Elisha Served Elijah Even When Elijah Was About To Depart! (2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6)** (i.e. He served him till the end!)

IV. BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES LOSING ONE'S LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF THE MINISTRY!
(i.e. THERE IS A FORSAKING AND A SACRIFICING!)

- A. Elisha Had To Forsake His Parents!**
1 Kings 19:20 – “...Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother and then I will follow thee...”

Matthew 19:29–“And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

- B. Elisha Had To Forsake The Way Of Life He Had Known!**
As I said previously, he **gave up plowing for his dad** to plow for the LORD and didn't look back!
- C. Elisha Had To Forsake All Of His Previous Plans And Aspirations He Had For His Life!**
We are not told, but Elisha may have been looking down the road that his dad's farm would be his one day. Or maybe he had other plans for his life. If so, that was all over with!

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Matthew 16:25–“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”

When we come to know the LORD, we belong to Him!
That's true for every Believer, but especially a man of God!
1 Corinthians 6:19-20–“19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

A man of God is the property of God to do with as He will!
Philippians 3:7-8–“7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”

1 Corinthians 15:10–“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

V. BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES A DESIRE FROM DEEP WITHIN! (2 Kings 2:9)

One might think that Elisha might settle on just asking to be used in ministry like Elijah. But Elisha had a desire to be used in even greater ways than Elijah and there is nothing wrong with that!

When I surrendered to the ministry my desire was to do the LORD's will for my life whatever that might be and wherever that might be!
(e.g. When I asked Susan to marry me I did it in an unusual way. I asked her if she would be willing to go with me wherever the LORD might take me! She said she would as long as the LORD was in it!)

I wanted to be found faithful to the LORD to the very end of my life!

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**VI. BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES DOING
WHATEVER NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THE LORD'S
WILL. (2 Kings 2:9-13)**

He had to take up the mantle of Elijah! That was a tall task because it involved a great responsibility to take Elijah's place!

**VII. BECOMING A MAN OF GOD REQUIRES MANIFESTING
THE GIFTS AND CALLING OF GOD ON ONE'S LIFE THAT
CAN BE SEEN BY OTHERS. (2 Kings 2:14-18)**

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