

LESSON 36 Devotional

Preparing the Next Generation

Elijah just had a mountain top experience as he watched God wipe out 400 false prophets upon Elijah's command. But then Elijah received the news that Ahab's wife, Jezebel, had put a contract out on his life.

The prophet Elijah was overwhelmed and exhausted. For years he had been either contending with the wicked king Ahab, challenging Ahab or hiding out from him. Despite Elijah's amazing victory, fear overwhelmed him. So, he fled to hide out at the Mountain of God, Horeb.

It was there that Elijah received his instructions to train a new mentor and successor, Elisha.

Read 1 Kings 19:15-16

The Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 You shall also anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

Read 1 Kings 19:19-21

So (Elijah) departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat while he was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah came over to him and threw his cloak on him. 20 Then he left the oxen behind and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back, for what have I done to you?" 21 So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them, and cooked their meat with the implements of the oxen and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he got up and followed Elijah and served him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it was important to God for Elijah to mentor someone to succeed him?

a. Who made the selection of the mentee?

b. Why is that significant?

2. In 1 Kings 19:19, Elijah threw his “cloak” over the shoulders of Elisha. In those days, a “cloak” was also referred to as a “mantle.” It was a hairy piece of clothing that revealed to others that you were a prophet.

a. What was the significance of this action to Elisha? To what extent do you believe Elisha felt honored to be selected?

b. What was the sacrifice and level of commitment that Elisha made to follow Elijah?

3. Based on this story, if God calls you to mentor someone specifically, how should you feel and act? How would you hope your mentee would feel and act?

4. How would you respond if someone today asked you to mentor them?
