

The Life of Elijah

Elijah - The Mantle

1 Kings 21:17-29, 2 Kings 1:1-8, 2:1-14

"All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine." —Jim Rohn

"Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you." —Shannon L. Alder

Elijah - Review - The Man, The Message, The Movement

Life is hollow and meaningless unless it is passed on -Elijah passed on his spirit to Elisha

I. Experienced opposition together (Elisha though not mentioned was by his side)

A. The Mercy and Grace of God **1 Kings 21:17-29**

1. Sent once again to pronounce judgement
2. Response of defiance - Have you found me, o my enemy?
3. God has found out your sin - He always does. **21-26**
5. Repentant spirit and actions **27**
6. God's mercy and grace pronounced **28-29**

B. The Power and Judgment of God **2 Kings 1:1-18**

1. King Ahaziah of Israel sought Baal-zebul for help
2. Elijah intercepted and pronounced judgment
3. Sent battalion of men to capture Elijah and then 2nd, 3rd
4. The third captain humbled himself and God released Elijah
5. Elijah pronounced judgment from God

II. End Journey together **2 Kings 2:1-14**

A. Final journey and test of commitment

1. Acknowledge God's leading *"the Lord has sent me" 2, 4, 6*
1. Told Elisha to stay **2, 4, 6,**
2. Elisha committed himself to God - to Elijah **2 Kings 2:2, 4, and 6**

B. First stop Gilgal

1. Where Israel first camped in Promised Land.
2. 12 stones memorial of remembrance and renewal
3. Marks the beginning of following God in life

C. Second city Bethel

1. Where Jacob slept on a stone and saw God
2. God revealed Himself and promised return
3. Marks total dependence upon God in crises

D. Third city Jericho

1. Place of first great victory - God's power
2. Stones of rubble reminded all of God
3. Marks the victories won through God's power

E. Down to Jordan River

1. Boundary to promise land crossed (hindrances)

2. Stones stacked in middle as hidden assurance
3. Marks the crossing over from life to death
Death to sin and eventual physical death

III. Expression of legacy

A. Desire of Elisha's heart

1. Question of clarification **2 Kings 2:9**
2. Response of faith **2 Kings 2:9**
First born son and responsible heir - double portion
Note - not wealth or even power but spirit

B. Conditions of the promise

1. Hard thing - actually impossible unless God
2. If God lets you see my going He will grant your desire

C. Dramatic journey into heaven **2 Kings 2:11**

The glory of God revealed

D. Taking up the mantle

1. Elisha cried out acknowledging God
2. He took up the mantle - once laid over him **1 Kings 19:19**
3. He called upon the God of Elijah
4. He was acknowledged as the successor **2 Kings 2:15**

What must we pass on to those who follow us?

1. Our Gilgal - how we met the Lord and came to believe
2. Our Bethel - how we depended upon God in times of crises
3. Our Jericho - the victories God gave us along the way

How we must pass on the legacy

Intentionally - like a will

Material goods pass on easily

Moral and Spiritual legacies require God's power

In love - desiring the best for those who follow

Tough question "will I be happy if those who come after me (children and followers we all have) grow up to be just like me?
Such as devotion to God, focus of life, willingness to pass it on

With determination - time and energy

Note: key in **2 Kings 2** (possibly 20 years together)

6 ...So they went on together.

8... the two of them went across

11...As they were walking along and talking

What is the mantle of legacy you are leaving? To whom?