

**WHEN THE MANTLE FALLS TO YOU....
BE PREPARED FOR WHAT IT WILL DO**



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Change is scary for a lot of people

- **New job**
- **New city**
- **New finances**

**When this happens, we lean on God to equip
us to handle these situations**

2 KINGS 2:1-2 (KJV)

1 And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

2 And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.

For over 20 years, Elijah has been ministering to God's people

- **God had allowed Elijah to know exactly that this would be his last day on Earth**
- **He wanted to strengthen Elisha's resolve before he departed, and suggests that he stay behind in Gilgal**
- **Elisha refuses, and journeys with him onward**

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 (KJV)

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

2 KINGS 2:3 (KJV)

3 And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

2 KINGS 2:4 (KJV)

4 And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

These verses make it clear that Elijah had told Elisha previously that this was to be his final day on Earth

- **Elijah wanted to spend time with the prophets at Bethel**
- **They ask Elisha if he knows Elijah's time on Earth is almost up, and he acknowledges this**
- **He instructs them not to say anything**

**A 2nd time Elijah asks Elisha to stay behind,
and a 2nd time he refuses**

- **Elisha is no fool — he is fully aware of what is about to happen**

2 KINGS 2:5 (KJV)

5 And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

2 KINGS 2:6 (KJV)

6 And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

Just like at Bethel, Elijah visits the young believers at Jericho to strengthen and encourage them

- **A 3rd time Elijah asks Elisha to stay behind, and a 3rd time he refuses**

**IS YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE MINISTRY
THIS STRONG TODAY?**

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 (KJV)

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

ROMANS 12:11 (KJV)

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

GALATIANS 6:9 (KJV)

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 KINGS 2:7-9 (KJV)

7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.

8 And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

2 KINGS 2:9 (KJV)

9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

50 prophets follow the men from a distance

- **They witness Elijah roll up his cloak, strike the water of the Jordan River, and it divides so that he and Elisha can cross on dry land**
- **Very similar to Moses and Joshua before him**

The question Elijah asks in verse 9 shows the compassion and care he has for Elisha

- **He knows the pressure Elisha was about to be placed under**
- **He wanted to meet whatever final need Elisha felt he might have**

WHEN GOD ASKS WHAT HE CAN DO FOR YOU....
HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

ISAIAH 65:24 (KJV)

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

1 JOHN 5:14-15 (KJV)

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

JAMES 1:5 (KJV)

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

HOW DOES ELISHA RESPOND?

“...let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me”

- **OT family inheritance culture tells us that the eldest son received a double portion share and the right of succession**
- **This is Elisha’s BOLD request to be the “firstborn” heir of Elijah’s ministry**
- **He knew the heavy responsibility awaiting him, and he is asking God for spiritual strength to get it done**

**THIS IS HOW WE ALL CAN
REQUEST OF GOD!!!**

2 KINGS 2:10 (KJV)

10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

Elijah's response tells us he doesn't have the power to grant that request, despite all the great things that he has done

- Only God can
- Only God can decide if he will meet that request
- If Elisha witnesses God taking Elijah up to heaven, the request will be granted

2 KINGS 2:11-12 (KJV)

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

A miracle of miracles happens as Elijah is carried in a whirlwind up to heaven by chariots of fire

- **Only he and Enoch “did not see death”**
- **What an honor and privilege rewarded for the great prophet**
- **Elisha cries out and expresses sorrow as evidenced by the tearing of his clothes**

**REMEMBER, ELIJAH STAYED COMMITTED TO
GOD UP UNTIL THE LAST MOMENTS OF HIS
EARTHLY LIFE!!!**

CAN YOU??

JEREMIAH 29:13 (KJV)

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

PROVERBS 18:9 (KJV)

9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

ECCLESIASTES 9:10 (KJV)

10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

2 KINGS 2:12-15 (KJV)

12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;

2 KINGS 2:14-15 (KJV)

14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

15 And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

“He took up also the mantle of Elijah...”

- **Elisha picked up Elijah’s fallen cloak, which symbolizes God equipping him for the job ahead**

“...he took the mantle of Elijah....and smote the waters...”

- **He cried out to God and the Lord divided the waters**
- **Very similar to Moses leading the people over the Red Sea and Joshua leading the people across the Jordan**

“...the sons of the prophets...bowed themselves to the ground before him...”

- **God has given Elisha spiritual knowledge and insight**
- **It is witnessed immediately by many**

WHEN THE MANTLE FALLS TO YOU....

GOD WILL EQUIP YOU FOR THE JOB!

**GOD WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE
OBSTACLES AHEAD!!**

GOD WILL VERIFY YOU THROUGH HIS WORD!!

HEBREWS 13:21 (KJV)

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PSALM 90:17 (KJV)

17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

2 KINGS 2:16-17 (KJV)

16 And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the Lord hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send. 17 And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.

The prophets from earlier who were on the other side of the Jordan River can't believe what has happened

- **They ask Elisha to send men looking for Elijah**
- **They persist in asking until Elisha gives in and grants their request**
- **After 3 days, they find nothing**

**THIS IS GOD PROVING ELISHA'S WORD IS
TRUE, AND THAT HE IS IN CHARGE!!!**

**HOW MANY PEOPLE STILL DOUBT GOD
AFTER WITNESSING A MIRACLE???**

MARK 9:23-24 (KJV)

23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

JOHN 20:27 (KJV)

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

2 KINGS 2:18 (KJV)

18 And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?

19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.

Now that he has been ordained by God, Elisha's call needed to be made public

- Apparently the waters of Jericho were contaminated
- This would affect farming, agriculture and the economy
- It is not a coincidence that God has sent Elisha here at this exact moment

2 KINGS 2:20-22 (KJV)

20 And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him.

21 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.

22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

What does Elisha do? He has men bring him salt in a bowl

- **He goes out to the water source, casts the salt in it, and cries out to God who cleanses the water**
- **No “more death or barren land”**
- **Salt is a preservative**

**HOW APPROPRIATE THAT GOD USES SALT HERE
AS A SYMBOL FOR PRESERVING HIS PEOPLE!!!**

WILL YOU LET GOD POUR SALT OVER YOU TODAY
AND
PURIFY YOUR LIFE??

PSALM 32:7 (KJV)

7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

PHILIPPIANS 1:5-6 (KJV)

5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

THERE IS ONE MORE PART
TO THIS STORY

2 KINGS 2:23 (KJV)

23 And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.

WHEN THE MANTLE FALLS TO YOU....

**DID YOU THINK EVERYONE WAS GOING TO BE
HAPPY THAT GOD ORDAINED YOU?**

A group of youths taunt and mock Elisha

- Making fun of his bald head
- Telling him to “go up” to heaven as Elijah did
- These seemingly harmless insults are a direct assault on the man that God has chosen

**DO NOT LET ANYONE INSULT YOU OVER YOUR
FAITH IN GOD!!!**

MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD!!!!

2 KINGS 2:24-25 (KJV)

24 And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

25 And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria.

Elisha responds by cursing them in the name of the Lord

- As soon as he does that, 2 bears came out of nowhere and kill all the youths
- (42 of them!)

**DO YOU STILL THINK GOD PLAYS GAMES
ABOUT THOSE WHO SEEK TO DO HARM
TO HIS PEOPLE??**

2 SAMUEL 22:40 (KJV)

40 For thou hast girded me with strength to battle:
them that rose up against me hast thou subdued
under me.

1 CHRONICLES 29:12 (KJV)

12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

ISAIAH 43:13 (KJV)

13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

WHEN THE MANTLE FALLS TO YOU...
BE PREPARED FOR WHAT IT WILL DO!!!

CHANGE CAN BE SCARY FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE!!!
BUT IT IS NECESSARY!!!

ELISHA KNEW THE DAY HAD COME....

**AND WAS BOLD IN ASKING FOR A DOUBLE
PORTION BLESSING FROM ELIJAH AND GOD!!!**

WHEN THE MANTLE FELL TO HIM....

HE DID NOT RUN FROM IT!!!

JUST LIKE ELISHA,

GOD WILL EQUIP YOU FOR THE JOB!

**GOD WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE
OBSTACLES AHEAD!!**

GOD WILL VERIFY YOU THROUGH HIS WORD!!

**WHEN THE TROUBLEMAKERS COME TO
HARASS YOU...**

STAND STRONG IN YOUR FAITH!!!!

GOD WILL ELIMINATE THEM AND PRESERVE YOU
TO GET THE JOB DONE!!!!

**WHEN THE MANTLE FALLS TO YOU....
BE PREPARED FOR WHAT IT WILL DO**



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