

# ***Why Did God Call Elisha?***

***1 Kings 19:16, 19-21***

# **1 Kings 19:16, 19-21**

- *"Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place."*
- *So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.*

# ***Background***

- *The name Elisha means “God is Salvation.”*
- *Elisha was from the city or area of Abel Meholah according to **1 Kings 19:16**.*
- *He was the son of Shaphat. (**1 Kings 19:19**)*
- *He works as a farmer for his father (**1 Kings 19:19**)*

# ***Background***

- *He was a prophet of God for the northern tribes (Israel) during the reigns of Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash, who were kings of Israel from about 852 B.C. to 796 B.C.*
- *He was a man who feared and served God faithfully.*
- *He is mentioned by Christ. (**Luke 4:27**)*

# ***First mention of Elisha***

- *God lets Elijah know that his replacement is Elisha – **1 Kings 19:16***
  - *He tells where to find him*
  - *He reveals his father's name*
  - *What a blessing for Elijah considering what had just occurred*

# ***Elisha***

- *His willingness to serve - **1 Kings 19:19-21***
  - *He knew what it meant when Elijah threw his mantle on him*
  - *His only request is to kiss his parents goodbye*
  - *He follows that with sacrifice*
    - *He gave up his comfortable life*
    - *He gave up two oxen*
    - *He gave up the yokes to cook them*
    - *He gave them to the people*
    - *He gave up his earthly inheritance*

# ***Elisha***

- *He is still young – maybe in his early twenties*
- *He started by serving Elijah (5 to 10 years)*
  - *Through the rest of King Ahab's reign (**1 Kings 20-22**)*
  - *Through King Ahaziah's reign (**2 Kings 1:1-18**)*
  - *Until Elijah is taken away (**2 Kings 2:11**)*

# ***Elisha***

- *His willingness to take on responsibility – 2 Kings 2:1–11*
  - *He will not leave Elijah (2, 4, 6)*
  - *He asks for a double portion*
    - *At first it might sound selfish*
    - *With a double portion comes greater responsibility*
    - *Just like Solomon asked for wisdom and got it, God answered Elisha*
  - *His immediate faith in that responsibility – 2 Kings 2:12-15*



# ***Elisha***

- *His willingness to let others decide for themselves (**2 Kings 2:16-18**)*
  - *He knows what has happened to Elijah*
    - *He tries to tell them, but they refuse to believe*
    - *He understands they must make their own decision*

# ***Elisha***

- *His willingness to use his gift for others (**2 Kings 2:19-22**)*
  - *The water was bad and the ground barren*
  - *He takes the time to help them*
    - *He could have thought his time was too precious for them*

# ***Elisha***

- *His willingness to turn things over to God (**2 Kings 2:23-25**)*
  - *Elisha is still young when this happens*
  - *At least forty two young men show great disrespect*
    - *Youths (Naar)*
      - **Genesis 18:7** – *Abraham had a young man (naar) dress out a calf*
      - **Genesis 37:2** – *Joseph was 17 (lad – naar)*
      - **1 Kings 20:19** – *Young men (naar) – military age*

# ***Elisha***

- *They were old enough to be responsible for their actions*
  - *They said at least twice - “Go up, you baldhead.” Mocking him.*
  - *God had promised His revenge for the disobedient*
    - ***Leviticus 26:21-22** - If they would not obey, He would send wild animals among them.*
  - *God uses two female bears to kill forty two of the young men*

# ***Elisha***

- *God gets angry when people do not respect His leaders and prophets*
  - ***Numbers 16:1-34** – God took care of this for Moses (Korah, Dathan, Abiram)*

# ***Elisha***

- *Elisha*
  - *Was willing to serve*
  - *Was willing to take great responsibility*
  - *Was willing to let others decide for themselves*
  - *Was willing to use his gift for others*
  - *Was willing to turn things over to God*
- *Elisha was a great prophet and servant of God*

# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to serve?*
  - *God and Christ*
    - ***Romans 6:12-18** – Either slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness*

# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to serve?*
  - *Others*
    - ***Galatians 5:13*** – *Through love we serve one another*



# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to serve?*
  - *Jesus was willing*
    - ***Mark 10:45*** – *Jesus came to serve and give His life a ransom for many*
    - ***John 13:3-16*** – *Jesus washed their feet*

# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to take on responsibility?*
  - *To be a good example to others*
    - *Young people – **1 Timothy 4:12***
    - *Everyone – **Philippians 3:17***

# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to take on responsibility?*
  - *As young men, work to meet the qualifications for:*
    - ***Elders/bishops/pastors – 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9***
    - ***Deacons – 1 Timothy 3:8-13***

# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to teach and let others decide for themselves?*
  - *Teach with humility – **2 Timothy 2:23-26***
  - *Speak sound doctrine - **Titus 2:1***
  - *When the word is effective, then they will teach others – **2 Timothy 2:2***
  - *God gives the increase – **1 Corinthians 3:5-6***

# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to use our natural gift or gifts for others?*
  - *We have that responsibility - **Romans 12:5-8***
  - *Philemon used his ability to refresh the hearts of others – **Philemon 7***
  - *Barnabas was the son of encouragement – **Acts 4:36***

# ***Lessons from Elisha***

- *Are we willing to turn things over to God when we are insulted?*
  - *We cast our cares on Him – **1 Peter 5:7***
  - *We let Him be the Judge – **Genesis 18:25***
  - *We let Him be the Avenger – **Hebrews 10:30***

- *We must be willing to:*
  - *Serve*
  - *Take responsibility*
  - *Teach and let others decide*
  - *Use our talents/gifts for others*
  - *Turn things over to God*

- *God called Elisha from comfortable conditions to what could have been dangerous conditions.*
- *Elisha trusted in God and showed that trust by first serving Elijah and then serving God.*
- *Elisha was a man we can pattern our lives after.*
- *There are many other things we could say about him, but one thing is certain, his trust was in God.*
- *Where is our trust?*
- *Is it in Christ?*
- *We show our trust in Him when we obey His words.*