

Living life on Purpose!

Elisha: Is Playing It Safe Holding You Back?

1 Kings 19:19, So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing *with twelve yoke of oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

I. Who is Elisha?

1 Kings 19:19-20, So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing *with twelve yoke of oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

II. What did Elisha do for a living?

- God often chooses unlikely candidates to do great works for Him! Those at the back of the line.

III. What did God do for Elisha?

- A. God called Elisha to serve Him with his life!
- B. God left Elisha with a choice to make: stay where you are or accept My call!

Vs. 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

- We don't have to understand things completely to accept the call and obey immediately!

- Accepting God's call and mission will require sacrifice!

Vs. 21, And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

- When you know God is calling you to serve Him wholeheartedly with full commitment you can't hold the plow and the mantle at the same time!

Jesus said in Lk 9:62, And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Jesus said in Matt 6:24, No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

1 Jn 2:15, Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.