

## A SERVANT'S HEART

We are presently studying a new series of lesson entitled, Life of Elisha, taken from 2 Kings.

Elisha was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC (2 Kings 5:8).

Elisha was anointed by Elijah to be his successor as prophet to the nation (1 Kings 19:15-21).

Elisha spent 15 years being mentored by Elijah to become prophet to the king and nation of Israel. Then Elisha spent the next 50 years fulfilling this ministry for the Lord.

We learned last week that Elisha had been taught in youth while at home to have a “willing heart” for his service ministry to the Lord.

We will learn from this week’s lesson that a “**willing heart**” is not enough for spiritual leadership ministry in the plan of God.

We must also have a “**servant’s heart**”. Elijah’s task was to mentor Elisha to minister with a servant’s heart. (1 Kings 19:15-16) “And the Lord said to him (Elijah), ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, - Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, you shall anoint as prophet in your place.’”

<b>This lesson will study five aspects of Elisha’s training for a Servant’s Heart ministry.</b>
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**1. We will begin by examining a Servant’s Heart from our lesson text by the following six homiletical points (2 Kings 2:1-15).**

- **Prophetic word** (2 Kg.2:1-2) [Gilgal to Bethel] – Lord was about to take up Elijah
  - **Servant** - “I will not leave you.”
- **Prophetic word** (2 Kg 2:3-4) [Bethel to Jericho] – 1<sup>st</sup> group of sons of prophets – Lord will take away your master.
  - **Servant** - “I will not leave you.”
- **Prophetic word** (2 Kg 2:5-6) [Jericho] – 2nd group of sons of prophets – Lord will take away your master.
  - **Servant** - “I will not leave you.”
- **Prophetic word** (2 Kg 2:7-9) [Jericho to Jordan] – 3rd grouping of sons of prophets waiting for departure of Elijah – Elijah parted water with mantle – Elijah ask what he could do for Elisha.
  - **Servant** – “Let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”
- **Prophetic sign** (2 Kg 2:10-12) [Jordan] – “If you see me when I am taken from you.” – The chariot of fire and horses of fire took Elijah up in a whirlwind.
  - **The servant** saw it.
- **Prophetic sign** (2 Kg 2:13-15) [Jordan to Jericho] – Elijah’s mantle is in Elisha’s possession – **The PROPHET** - parted the water with the mantle.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> group of sons of prophets saw and declared - “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.”

**2. During Elisha's official appointment to the office of national prophet, he declared that Elijah was his spiritual father – "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" (2 Kg. 2:12a)**

Even Jesus Christ referred to Himself as the Servant of God:

(Phil.2:7) "But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men."

(Matt.26:39) "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

Elijah had mentored Elisha for the office of prophet to the king and nation of Israel.

Elisha was a servant to Elijah for 15 years of training – "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah." (2 Kings 3:11b)

Timothy had this with Paul in ministry – "Timothy, my true child in the faith." (1 Tim.1:2, 18)

It was the responsibility of Elijah to mentor-train Elisha to lead with a Servant's Heart.

**3. Not only did Jesus submit to this type training but He also required it of His disciples.**

They joined His team because they had a willing heart but they stayed because they needed mentor training to serve others with a Servant's Heart.

(Matt.10:24-25a) "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he becomes as his teacher, and the slave as his master."

**The feedings of the 5,000 and 4,000 were part of this training and they struggled with this training:**

(Matt.16:7-12) "But Jesus aware of this said, 'You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread? Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousands, and how many baskets you took up? Or the seven loaves of the four thousands, and how many large baskets you took up? How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.' Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees." (Mark 6:52)

Jesus taught them that the greatest ministry is about serving all others without concern for themselves

(Matt.20:25-28) "But whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be the first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**4. The first hurdle that must be overcome is a willing heart to leave everything and everyone for mentor training. This is NOT the end but the beginning of ministry training (Luke 9:57-62).**

Like Elisha the disciples of Jesus had a willing heart to be trained as follower before becoming leaders (Matt.4:18-22). – "And they immediately left their nets, and followed Him." (Matt.4:20 Mark 10:28-31)

**5. The next hurdle to overcome in order to acquire a Servant's Heart is putting off OMCD and putting on NMDV (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).**

After the RYR confrontation, Peter bragged that the disciples had left everything and followed Jesus as if a "willing heart" was enough. Jesus told Peter he needed a Servant's heart – "But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first." (Mark 10:31)

The Servant's Heart lives and dies by "not my will, but God's be done" (Matt.16:21-23; 26:31-35; Eph.6:6).