

# HE AROSE, WENT, AND MINISTERED 1 KINGS 19

Text: 1 Kings 19:21

## **1 Kings 19:21**

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.

Introduction:

Elijah is nearing the end of his life and ministry. After asking the Lord to take his life, the Lord took his ministry and commissioned Elisha to take his place. Elisha was a successful farmer. When Elijah found him he was plowing with 12 yoke of oxen.

Notice:

# 1. CALL FROM THE LORD (VS 19)

## 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.

A. The Lord knew Elisha before Elijah arrived.

## 1 Kings 19:16

And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint *to be* king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint *to be* prophet in thy room.

B. The Lord used Elijah to tell Elisha of His call.

1. God uses His servants to fulfill His will
2. We should be open to the ministry of the servants of God.

C. The Lord called Elisha to service when he was busy.

D. God's call often demands that we leave worldly success behind to serve Him.

## 2. CONFLICT CONSIDERING GOD'S CALL (VS 20)

### 1 Kings 19:20

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?

A. The call of God sometimes creates conflict in our lives.

1. God's call demands a decision to follow Him.

Illustration:

Moses had to leave his sheep; Peter had to leave his boats.

B. Elisha had many problems as he considered God's call.

1. Parents – Loved ones are often involved in decisions.
2. Position – Who will tend the farm?
3. Passion – He no doubt loved his family and what he was doing.

C. There is a battle that we all face and many people lose.

Illustration:

The rich young ruler.

### **Luke 18:18-23**

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? <sup>19</sup>And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.** <sup>20</sup>**Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.** <sup>21</sup>And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. <sup>22</sup>Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, **Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.** <sup>23</sup>And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

## **3. CONSECRATION FOLLOWING THE CONFLICT (VS 21)**

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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.

A. Elisha decided the God would be first in his life.

1. God's call was more important than position or power.

B. Elisha's surrender would give him the position as a prophet of God.

1. He burned his plow in the field and cooked the oxen.

Close:

How will you respond to God's call on your life?

Will you count all things but loss for Christ?

**Philip. 3:8**

Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

Will you publicly declare your surrender to Him?