

Series: Stand Fast In the Lord

HE AROSE, WENT, AND MINISTERED 1 KINGS 19

Text: 1 Kings 19:21

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*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:

Sermon Content:

1. THE CALL FROM THE LORD (VS. 19)

1 Kings 19:19

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.

- The Lord knew Elisha before Elijah arrived.

1 Kings 19:16

¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

Not only did the Lord know Elisha before he arrived but also:

- The Lord used Elijah to tell Elisha of His call

Understand:

God uses His servants to fulfill His will

We should be open to the ministry of the servants of God.

It is interesting but seems to be the case so often:

- The Lord called Elisha to service when he was busy.
- God's call often demands that we leave worldly success behind to serve Him.

We have considered the Call From the Lord.

Note secondly:

2. THE CONFLICT CONCERNING GOD'S CALL (VS. 20)

1 Kings 19:20

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?

Note:

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

God's call demands a decision to follow Him.

Illustrations:

Moses had to leave his flocks.

Peter had to leave his boats.

Understand what is truly involved:

Luke 14:26-27

²⁶ If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33

³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

We should never demand from God following on our terms.

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

1. His Parents

Loved ones at times involve themselves in our decisions

Not only was his parents a consideration to Elisha but also:

2. His Position

Who was going to be able to tend to the farm?

3. His passion

He no doubt loved his family and what he was doing.

Understand:

These things are often the battle that we face and sadly it is here where many people lose.

Illustration:

The Rich Young Ruler

Luke 18:18-23

¹⁸ And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ¹⁹ And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. ²² 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. ²³ *And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.*

We have considered the Call of the Lord and the Conflict of the Call.

Note lastly:

3. THE CONCENTRATION FOLLOWING THE CONFLICT (VS. 21)

1 Kings 19:21

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.*

Note:

- Elisha decided that God would be first in his life

God's call was more important than his parents, position or power.

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

Elisha was so committed to God that he a yoke of oxen and slew them, boiled them, and gave them to the people to eat.

In other words he destroyed what he could fall back on.

Close:

Though Elisha was hesitant at the beginning to follow the Lord's call, as you study his life God used him to do many things.

He determined to place God first in his life.

If we are going to Stand Fast in the Lord, the Lord must have the preeminence in our lives.

Is there something or someone who is preventing us from wholly following the Lord?

How have we responded to the call of God?

Are we willing to count all things but loss for Christ?

Philippians 3:8

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,