

*The Call  
Of  
Elisha*

*1 Kings 19:19-21*

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

**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.**

**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?**

**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

**A. Elijah at the “end” of his ministry**

**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 Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.**

**B. Elisha as a successful farmer will be faced with choice**

# **I. Elisha's Call From The Lord (v 19)**

**A. The Lord knew Elisha before Elijah arrived**

**1 Peter 1:2**

**Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.**

# **I. Elisha's Call From The Lord (v 19)**

**B. The Lord called Elisha before Elijah announced it  
Ephesians 1:4**

**According as he hath chosen us in him before the  
foundation of the world, that we should be holy and  
without blame before him in love:**

**C. The Lord used Elijah to tell Elisha of his call**

**D. The Lord called Elisha to service when he was busy**

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

## **II. Elisha's Conflict As He Considered God's Call (v 20)**

**A. The call of God always creates a conflict in our lives**

**B. Elisha's problems as he considered God's call**

**1. The problems of his parents**

**Matthew 10:35**

**For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.**

## **II. Elisha's Conflict As He Considered God's Call (v 20)**

### **B. Elisha's problems as he considered God's call (continued)**

#### **2. The problem of his position**

**Matthew 19:29**

**And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren,  
or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or  
lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold,  
and shall inherit everlasting life.**

## **II. Elisha's Conflict As He Considered God's Call (v 20)**

### **B. Elisha's problems as he considered God's call (continued)**

#### **3. The problem of his passion for power**

#### **Philippians 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,**



## **II. Elisha's Conflict As He Considered God's Call (v 20)**

**C. The rich young ruler lost this battle**

**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.**

## **II. Elisha's Conflict As He Considered God's Call (v 20)**

### **C. The rich young ruler lost this battle**

**Luke 18:18-23 - continued**

**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.**

## **II. Elisha's Conflict As He Considered God's Call (v 20)**

**Will you choose worldly things and lose God's  
best for your life?**

# **III. Elisha's Consecration That Emerged From This Conflict (v 21)**

**A. Elisha decided that God would be first in his life**

**1. Accepted God's call**

**2. Became the prophet of God**

**3. Succeeded Elijah in power**

**B. Elisha made his commitment public**

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