

## FOLLOWING AFTER THE DOUBLE PORTION

### TEXT:

***2 Kings 2:9: And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.***

The pitch black midnight of unbelief and worldliness closed in like a monstrous beast upon the church of Elijah's day. It had not succeeded in extinguishing or diminishing the lighted torch in Elijah's soul which was fired at the altar of the Living God. The lashing winds of doubt and wickedness but fanned and scattered it abroad until on Mt. Carmel the fire fell on the water-soaked altar and sacrifice, and Israel again turned back to the Lord. The fire burned in his soul until the other torches caught the flame, and the school of prophets was formed.



The day had come when the man of God was going to be with his God. The news flashed like lightning to one group of prophets, then to another! This man — whose trust and faith of unshaken confidence in the Everlasting, the Great I AM — was unlike the average preacher of today. He had no spacious church, no robed choir, no magnificent organ, and no boards and committees to interfere in his plans to awaken Israel. He had no social position, no riches or comforts — only loneliness.

He was without ordination — for he never sought such — and there was no consideration of salary for his preaching. He had no parsonage to live in, no budget to meet, nor any percentage to pay to the District Superintendent. There were no politics in his getting appointed to the Church's Annual Convention. So he could preach Hell hotter, sin blacker, death surer, eternity longer, and Heaven dearer than any man of his day. He made Israel feel their need of God. It was contagious!

As he journeyed, suddenly the Holy Spirit told him to go anoint Elisha, the son of Shaphat, who was plowing in the field. Long, straight furrows lay behind, skillfully worked on. Suddenly a man passed by. I believe it was the very man his soul hoped and longed would come by.



Elisha glanced into Elijah's face as Elijah threw the mantle upon him — then on down the road Elijah travelled. Elisha left the oxen, ran after the man of God and entreated him to hold up until he kissed father and mother goodbye, and he would follow him. Elijah told him to go back again, for "*What have I done to thee?*" as though to say, *there is danger in the slightest reservation.*



***1 Kings 19:21: And he [Elisha] 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.***

Precious memories flood my soul of the day my God called me from the life of sin and commanded me to come follow Him with an authority which no man could have so affected me. I saw the bright lights of the city, home, money, and friends fade as we said goodbye to them all, and said an eternal "yes" to the call of the Master. I regret not one moment that I left all to follow Him. Dad tried to persuade me to stay and work, for he had retired.

Many need to re-fire more than retire — and there would be fewer hindrances in the way of those who would not go all the way with the Lord Jesus Christ.

***Jesus, I my cross have taken,***

***All to leave, and follow Thee.***

***Perish, every fond ambition!***

***By Thy Grace, I'll follow Thee.***

Elijah knew not that he himself would be translated and would not see death. What a wonderful prospect.

While God has not revealed what generation it will be, yet it is absolutely certain that we are near to the Second Coming of Christ — nearer than many are expecting or believing. Oh, joy! Oh delight, if we go without dying we will be caught up in the air through the clouds with the Lord into Glory when Jesus will reveal His Own.

Where would the old prophet go for his last trip? He does not hesitate, but goes to three very significant places: Gilgal, Bethel, and Jericho. ***Gilgal was the place of consecration and separation; Bethel is the house of God.***

***Joshua 5:9-10:***

***<sup>9</sup> And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the***

***reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.***

***<sup>10</sup> And the Children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.***

At each of these places there was a school of prophets who were living near to God — near enough to know the destiny of Elijah's soon departing. Thank God for their separation from the apostasy of the world and unto God. But never let us be easily satisfied with only this. This is but a part of the price for entrance into the fullness of Christ.

Would you do your MASTER'S work? Then you must have your MASTER'S power. Would you perform your MASTER'S miracles? Then you must receive the MASTER'S mantle of miracle-working power.

Nowhere is the vital necessity of seeking and receiving the Power of the Holy Ghost more vividly portrayed than in this experience of Elijah and Elisha. **Elisha is a servant, following hard after his master, for he longed for the power of God.** This is true also for every true child of God. You cannot be truly born-again without being hungry and seeking for the fullness of Christ and His Promised Holy Spirit.

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Some of you have cooled off in those dry, formal churches, and you think you can get along without the Holy Spirit. You can live without the Spirit's power if you want to, but I do not want to, praise God. I know the devil is worried about those who are seeking for God and for the power of His Holy Spirit. And some of you are scared skinny; but the Elisha — who wades thru all the hindrances and goes all the way — will receive the Mantle.

As Christ ascended His Throne in Glory, He sent the Holy Spirit to clothe His disciples. So likewise the call and consecration of Elisha brought to him the coveted power which only came by looking up.

You and I will care little for the things of earth, and they will grow strangely dim when we get hungry for the Baptism of the Spirit and stay filled. **We are called to carry on the ministry of the Lord Jesus, but we need His Power —the Power of the Holy Spirit.**

There is but one way to receive, and Elisha must surmount every difficulty. He must be true in every test, and unflinchingly walk on and on until that great moment when he receives the mantle.

The first test and experience came at Gilgal when Elijah said to Elisha:

**2 Kings 2:2** *And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.*



What does Elijah mean? It seems as if he is trying to discourage or dissuade Elisha, but no. Elijah is only seeking to see if Elisha is willing to pay the price — to see how much he wants the mantle. The offered blessing is conditional — don't forget it. **Gilgal is the place of entire separation from the world.**

How does your soul feel? At Gilgal the voice will come to you to not go too far in religion. You are saved and there is nothing else for you. You made such a good consecration, and even the memory of the glowing coals of the burning plow handle was a pledge of your turning to the Lord.

“But no!” is the cry of Elisha. “As the Lord liveth, and as the soul liveth, I will not leave thee.” Brother, sister, can you say it? Is this the cry of your heart? If it is not, then you will not go any further in the blessedness of Christ. There is nothing less than a hungry soul that will take you beyond Gilgal, and on to Bethel. You will not meet the sons of the prophets here, those who really believe in the Lord, revealing things to the heart of the child of God. There is more head religion at Gilgal.



**2 Kings 2:3:** *And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.*

Elisha did not want to become occupied with doctrine. He already knew that Elijah would be taken from him. He wanted something deeper than head knowledge. His soul was burning with earnest prayer to have what Elijah had. He did not want to be sidetracked with explanations, nor stopped nor hindered one moment. He cannot afford to lose one step, nor lose sight of his master, Elijah.

Then the next test comes. You are now more spiritual and you feel more spiritual here at Bethel than at Gilgal. Stay with us. You and I believe in the Bible in its entirety, and holiness is the main doctrine of our Church. Thank God for the Holiness folk, every one of them, but this word is to you: Go on — on to Jericho with Elisha. *“Tarry here at Bethel, rest, relax.” “But no, my soul is hungry! As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.”*

**2 Kings 2:4: And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.**

Have these words come from your soul? Go through with Jesus over the hot and dusty highway. Before you are aware, you will find yourself nearer to the place of **treasured longings**, to the fruitful places of new experiences in God.



Here again you will meet more sons of the prophets with the same message as they had at Bethel.



**2 Kings 5: And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.**

Riding the same hobby horse, crowing the same way, they tell you there is no need to journey further. Many times Christians are willing to accept something vastly inferior to the revealed Will of God. They can hop over and skip through Scriptures they do not like, and try to justify themselves by comparing them with somebody inferior, or fanatical, or overbalanced.

Through the test of Jericho – on he goes to Jordan. We must make our commitment to the Lord, “I must go on, and will go on with these.”

**2 Kings 2:6a: And Elijah said unto him [Elisha], Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.**

Don't forget the next four words;

**2 Kings 2:6b: And they went on.**

Let the rest of the world take their ease in peaceful habitations. Those two went on. Let people criticize, misunderstand, and call it wildfire and fanaticism. “*The two went on*”.

When we choose to go on, there will be no less than two, praise the Lord. If all others stop following, the Master will be with you.



**He leads the way, and we will not know it unless we follow on with Him — on to Jordan which is a type of death to the flesh.**

**2 Kings 2:7: And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.**

Here is the picture of those who come, and watch us die out to self in order to serve the Lord. Spectators never seek the deeper life of consecration, and the descending mantle of power never falls on them. This is where the greater separation takes place. Why? Because most people are afraid of the Jordan, for it symbolizes death to the flesh, the emptying of self, but preparing for the filling with the Spirit.

**2 Kings 2:8: And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.**



Elisha could not make a way for himself thru the Jordan, but Elijah, his master, parted the waves and led him thru. We cannot take ourselves into the Spirit-filled land, but Jesus will miraculously lead us in.

**2 Kings 2:9a: And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.**

**John 16:24: [The words of Jesus] Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

If you could get whatever you asked for, what would it be? Riches, fame, pleasures of this world . . . ? I am wondering.

Elisha had but one petition to make, one thing fired his soul.

**2 Kings 2:9b: . . . And Elisha said, I pray thee, *let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.***

He was going to do his master's work; and he needed his master's power, and so do we!

**John 16:7a: [The Words of Jesus] Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.**



But Elisha must tarry and look up for the promised power.

**2 Kings 2:10: And he [Elijah] said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.**

Notice, Elisha does not ask for the mantle, but for the Spirit that Elijah had.

**2 Kings 4:11: And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into Heaven.**



Suddenly the appearing of the fiery chariot appeared, parting their company, and Elisha — looking, believing, and expecting — received the longed-for power of the Spirit.

What a picture of the man who received the Mantle.

**2 Kings 2:14-15a:**

**<sup>14</sup> And he took the mantle of Elijah and fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.**

**<sup>15a</sup> And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha.**



He used it at the same Jordan that Elijah had used it. It always works — it will work for you as it did for Peter, James, John, or Paul.

Jesus said,

**Acts 1:8a-9:**

**<sup>8a</sup> ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:**

**<sup>9</sup> And when He [Jesus] had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**

**Then, obediently, they did what the Master conditioned for the Promised power, and they received.**

Elisha went back to minister, and he performed many mighty deeds. For example, he healed water, and filled empty vessels with oil:

**2 Kings 2:19-22:**

**19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.**

**20 And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him.**

**21 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.**

**22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spoke.**

**2 Kings 4:1-7:**

**1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.**

**2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.**

**3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.**

**4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.**

**5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.**

**6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.**

**7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.**



He did not lay away the double portion for a keepsake to be proud of, nor to glory in, nor to be used on special occasions.

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