## Character Study: Elisha Part 2 – A Prophet of Miracles II Kings 2:14 - 6:23

#### What's happening?

- God's hand on Elisha was immediately realized after <u>Elijah</u> ascended to heaven. Elisha, needing to cross to the other side of the Jordan River, struck the water with Elijah's cloak and the waters <u>divided</u>. Seeing him pass through on dry land, other prophets recognized that Elijah's <u>spirit</u> was upon Elisha. (2:14-15)
- Elisha's ministry centered around many <u>miracles</u> that God performed through him. Some of these miracles included:
  - Sweetening the <u>waters</u> of Jericho (2:19-22)
  - Filling vessels with oil for a widow (4:1-7)
  - Raising a <u>boy from the dead (4:18-21, 32-37)</u>
  - Removing poison from a pot of stew (4:38-41)
  - Feeding 100 men with only a little food (4:42-44)
  - ► Healing a man of <u>leprosy</u> (5:1-19)
  - Making an axe head float on water (6:1-7)
  - Praying and having his servant's eyes opened (6:13-17)
  - *▶* Blinding the Syrian <u>army</u> (6:18-23)

#### What's God doing?

> During a very dark time in Israel's history, when Baal worship was common, God was using all of these miracles as a way to show the Israelites that Elisha was truly His <u>prophet</u> and therefore needed to be taken seriously.

#### What's to learn?

- → These miracles were intended to get the <u>attention</u> of the Israelites. What does it take for God to get your attention? Today, when God speaks to you through His <u>Word</u>, do you truly hear what He is saying to you? Do you take Him seriously and listen to Him?
- → By looking at the list of miracles, we see that many of them reveal God's <u>compassion</u> toward His people and His desire to meet their <u>needs</u>. We can trust that God will meet our needs, and He often does so in ways that leave no doubt that the provisions came from Him.
- $\rightarrow$  Realizing that God's power is <u>limitless</u>, even over laws of nature, we can confidently place our cares and burdens on Him (I Pet. 5:7)!

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