

Character Study: Elisha
Part 1 – Elisha’s Call to Ministry
I Kings 19:16 - II Kings 2:13

What’s happening?

- Elisha was working in his father’s field when the prophet Elijah came by and threw his cloak around him. Throwing this piece of one’s garment around someone was a sign of passing one’s power and authority onto that individual. In this case, Elijah was telling Elisha that he could follow in his steps as a prophet. (19:16-19)
- Elisha, understanding the significance of Elijah’s act, threw a “going away party” with his family. He then left to follow Elijah and became his servant. (19:20-21)
- On three different occasions, Elijah tested Elisha’s commitment by asking him to stay behind. Each time, however, Elisha insisted on following Elijah. (II Kings 2:1-6)
- Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit to be upon him. In other words, Elisha was asking if he could be empowered as Elijah was, and thus fill his role when he departed. Elijah’s response emphasized the fact that such a decision was in God’s hands. (2:7-10)
- Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. Elisha mourned and then picked up the cloak which had fallen from Elijah. (2:11-13)

What’s God doing?

- > God had used Elijah to stand for Him in a time of great wickedness. Needing another person of faith, God chose Elisha to carry on the work.
- > God gave Elisha multiple opportunities to abandon the mission He had for him. But over and over again, Elisha confirmed his determination to be used by God.

What’s to learn?

- Elisha had no way of knowing that he was about to be called for a special task. Regardless, he was ready at the spur of the moment. Are you ready for whatever God may bring your way?
- Elisha was anxious to work, yet patient enough to learn and be mentored by others. This is a good balance we all should have.
- Elisha could not be convinced to quit the mission God had for him. Does your life demonstrate that you have the same resolve?