

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 10 – The Family Squabble

Transition: Last week, we saw Elisha's ministry get off the ground. Through two widely diverse aspects of his role as a prophet (the healing of a spring that supplied Jericho with water and pronouncing a curse on some mocking youths) Elisha established that Yahweh was with him in the same way that He had been with his predecessor, Elijah.

Context: This week we are looking at a peculiar passage that tells the story of when Israel (the northern kingdom), Judah (the southern kingdom), Edom, and Moab all went to war. Since all four of these nations are relatives of Abraham (and consider Abraham to be their "father"), in a sense, it is a family squabble. If you want to know more about the Edomites, click [here](https://www.gotquestions.org/Edomites.html).^{*} If you want to know more about the Moabites, click [here](https://www.gotquestions.org/Moabites.html).^{**}

Opening Questions:

- What compromises in the faith have you witnessed Christians make? Which ones concern you most? Why?
- Growing up, what family squabbles do you remember? What happened? What effect(s) did they have on you?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 3

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- Although Jehoram put away the pillar where Baal was worshiped, the text says that "he clung to the sin of Jeroboam" (v3). What does this mean and why is it significant? (See 1 Kings 12:25-33 & 1 Kings 13:33-34.)
- What are the ways that Jehoram's compromised faith is made evident (v4-14)?
- When is compromise dangerous? When is it the best approach? Share examples of each.
- Why do you think the LORD responded to the 3 kings' request for Jehoshaphat's sake? How does this impact your understanding of God?
- Why do you think Elisha asked for a musician when he was seeking the LORD's answer to their request? Has listening to music ever helped you when you were seeking the Lord? If so, share the story.
- The downward spiral of rejecting God is made evident through these four nations, all of whom, at one time, believed in the God of Abraham. (Moab was Lot's oldest son, and Lot was Abraham's nephew who joined him in traveling to Canaan; Edom is from Esau, Jacob's brother; both Israel [10 sons] and Judah [2 sons] are from Jacob; and both Jacob and Esau are Abraham's grandchildren. This makes Moab a second cousin to Jacob and Esau.) If you have time, read Romans 1:18-32. Regardless, how do you avoid going down a spiral of sin yourself?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Titus House, a ministry Providence supports that is located in Honduras.

- Pray for the safety of those traveling by boat to Calicanto (Honduras) as the land-crossing to get to there has been flooded.
- Pray that the youth in Calicanto will be receptive to the preaching of the Gospel.
- Pray for the faithfulness of the missionaries serving the people of Calicanto.
- Praise God that the meetings on Sunday mornings have been well received. Pray for continued growth in these gatherings and in the disciples being made through them.

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