

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 9 – Blessing and Cursing

Transition: Last week, we dug into the time when Elijah's ministry as a prophet of Yahweh was passed on to Elisha. As we saw earlier in this study, Elijah, although always remaining true in his service to Yahweh, had reached a point where he was ready for someone else to take over his role. So, in honoring Elijah's desire, Yahweh picked Elisha.

Context: This week we will be looking at how Elisha's ministry gets off the ground. Last week, we saw Elisha perform the same miracle as Elijah (using the cloak to part the waters of the Jordan River). This week we see two more 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.

Opening Questions:

- How do you know when someone has a particular spiritual gift from God? What example of a gift in action that you've witnessed personally comes immediately to mind?
- Have you ever witnessed someone experience a divine consequence (judgment) for his/her action? If so, what happened? What makes you think the consequence was directly from God? How did seeing it affect you?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 2:19-25

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- How is the healing of Jericho's water supply significant? (Remember, Jericho had been cursed by Joshua... Joshua 6:26.) What does this reveal about the character of God? What meaning does it have for you personally?
- What is the link between the land being unfruitful and Elisha saying the water wouldn't be the cause of death or miscarriages any longer? How did the fate of the humans and creation become linked? (See Genesis 3:17-19 & Romans 8:18-25.)
- Why do you think Elisha cursed the youth (in the name of Yahweh)? Is it appropriate for believers to do this today? Why or why not?
- What is your reaction to the boys being mauled to death by two bears? (Keep in mind that Elisha didn't send the bears, God did.) Why would God do this? How do you reconcile this act with God being inherently good?
- Is there any significance to Elisha going to both Bethel and Mt Carmel? (For context, read Genesis 12:7-8, 28:10-19; 1 Kings 12:25-30, 18:17-19, 18:36-40.) If so, what do you think it is, and why?
- Elisha immediately knew his spiritual gift (prophet). What are your spiritual gifts? How do you know? Share a story of when God used them through you. (Spiritual gifts are found in Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.) What will you do to discover/use them more?
- 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 Camus Crusade for Christ (CRU), a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray that Lesli Pottorff will be able to identify and raise up believers who want to live on mission for Christ by serving Him faithfully through CRU's ministry.
- Please pray for the Japanese woman in whom Lesli is currently pouring.