

Text: 1 Kings 19:19-21

Meaning: Elisha sacrificed his livelihood for the call of God

Big Idea: God is calling us to a life of sacrifice

Objective: I want the hearers to sacrifice for Christ

Theme: Characteristics of an ALL IN ATTITUDE

GIFT CARD ILLUSTRATION

Bankrate.com recently conducted a survey asking people how much monetarily they had in unused gift cards or vouchers that someone else had given them. The number of unused gift cards is astounding; it is estimated that Americans have as much as 23 Billion dollars in unused gift cards. 23 Billion!

This sounds like a lot of Christians. In Christ we have been given everything we need for life and godliness. We have been given God's Holy Spirit and told to go and proclaim the excellencies of Christ to others. This gift of salvation was meant to be used for God! Still, we let that gift just sit on the shelf. Church – use the gift God gave you for someone else!

READ 1 KINGS 19:19-21

1 Kings 18 – Elijah calls down fire on Mt. Carmel, and executes 450 prophets of Baal. Incredible supernatural move of God. If there were ever to be a poster made of Prophets of God dunking on Satan this would be one of them – Elijah calling down fire from heaven!

1 Kings 19 – But now, in chapter 19 Elijah is running from the wicked queen Jezebel. He is physically, emotionally, and spiritually wiped out, and he cries out "Lord, just take my life."

BUT HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW TODAY OUR GOD IS A GRACIOUS AND PATIENT GOD?!

Elijah went from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. In this low God reminds Elijah that He was just getting started. God begins when I come to an end. At the end of ME is the beginning of HE!

And Church – GOD IS SUPREMEY INTERESTED IN THE GENERATIONS TO COME AFTER US! AS A CHURCH WE HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH IN OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS CITY!

Who will lead in prayer? Who will teach God's Word to others? Who will share Christ? Who will be the givers to God's mission? Who is carrying the ball down the field for God's Church?

ELIJAH WENT ALL IN FOR THE FUTURE

But where I want to focus this message is on the attitude of Elisha. One question here is why did God choose Elisha? The western theologian would say that God simply chose Elisha for his own sovereign purpose. Certainly there is truth to that. However, the Hebrew theologian would say there were certain characteristics in Elisha that led to God giving him this incredible responsibility, characteristics that showed Elisha to be a man God could trust with the ministry.

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.

The question at hand is not can God be trusted. The question is **CAN YOU AND I BE TRUSTED TO OBEY THE LORD'S CALL ON OUR LIVES?**

ELISHA HAD AN ALL IN ATTITUDE

What a picture of sacrifice with Elisha as well. Elisha said goodbye to his family, sold everything for the mission, submitted to the process

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

HAND TO THE PLOW

When Elijah came to anoint Elisha the next prophet of Israel He found him plowing in the field. Have you noticed in the Bible that God usually calls people who are busy? Moses was caring for the sheep; Gideon was threshing wheat; Peter, James, and John were busy in their fishing business; Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king. God has no place for lazy people¹

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Are you abounding in God's work or just watching everyone else do all the work?

Took 3 Days

It was 5:00 a.m and the father went to his son Shawn's bedroom door, knocked and said, "Son, it's time to get up. Jump in the shower and we've got to leave ASAP to go to work."

Soon it was 5:30 and dad had the coffee brewing, the trailer hooked up and he just finished packing the truck, when he noticed Shawn still wasn't up.

Furious the dad pounded on his son's bedroom door a second time and yelled, "Jesus rose from the dead and you can't even get out of Bed!"

To which the son yelled, "Yeah, but it took Jesus three days!!"

3 days to rise is some people's philosophy for life, and it is some Christian's motto when it comes to working in ministry. The good news today is Jesus is risen from the dead, He is seated on the throne at the right hand of God, and He is calling us to GO TO WORK FOR HIM!

CHURCH – HERE IS THE MODUS OPERANDI OF THE CHRISTIAN – PRAY, SERVE, GIVE, INVITE, REPEAT! KNOW JESUS AND MAKE HIM KNOWN!

HEART OF APPRECIATION

He had to go back and give love to his mom and dad for their investment in his life. They were the ones who had raised him, fed him, taught him, loved him, and disciplined him. We are commanded hundreds of times in the Scriptures to give thanks.

Society today is filled with INGRATITUDE! What kind of man turns his back on his family, the ones who raised him and . It is a useless human being who looks at people who have invested money, time, and love into their life and just because they disagree with them or discipline them they turn their back on them.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), 1 Ki 19:19–21.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

The happiest man or woman on earth is the one who recognizes everything in life is a gift from God. The good times and the bad times, it's all a gift.

Entitlement attitude, a "you owe me" attitude, is the anti-thesis of the gospel.

Don't grow weary in well-doing for in due time you will reap if we don't give up

He who is faithful in the little will be given much

HONORED TO GIVE

Elisha is said here to have had eleven yoke of oxen in front of him plowing in the field. This suggests that Elisha's family was most likely a wealthy family to have 11 other servants plowing ground along with their son. So, when Elijah threw that cloak on Elisha he forfeited wealth, comfort, and possibly even a lucrative inheritance to obey the call of God.

He wasn't in ministry for himself. He was in it for others. So many today are in ministry for what ministry does for them. For the highs they get from the events and performances. For the praise they get for playing a good song or preaching a good sermon or putting together a good event. However, those things are very short lived and shallow. If you're in ministry for any other reasons than the call of God and the building up of other people you're in it for the wrong reason.

HUMBLE STATE OF MIND

Scripture says that Elisha "ran after" Elijah. He was eager to learn from the great prophet. The passage ends by saying that Elisha left to assist Elijah. This affluent and important young man in his community didn't demand a leadership position from Elijah. He was perfectly content being his assistant, because he knew that in assisting Elijah he would learn and grow and eventually be given the opportunity to lead.

He who is faithful in the little things will be given much. It is how you respond to the menial tasks and manual labor that determines your fitness to be used of God. Some people walk in the door of the church as if they are management. Just because you've been successful in business or in leadership in the secular world doesn't mean you know how to lead others in prayer, the study of God's Word, and how to live the Christian life. That comes through dedicated commitment to Christ and His Church and His Word over time to learn such things, and it takes submission to those who have gone before you to learn and grow.