

4-24-22 Message
PASSING ON THE MANTLE

I Kings 19:15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:

I Kings 19:16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

I Kings 19:17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

I Kings 19:18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

I Kings 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

I Kings 19:20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

I Kings 19:21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

The Lord wants to perpetuate His work.

In this text we read about God commanding Elijah to go find a man whose name was Elisha and go and anoint him to be a prophet in his stead. He was anoint Hazael to be King of Syria, and Jehu to be King instead of Ahab,

Elijah was really discouraged and his ministry was not going as planned. He was disappointed and discouraged at how easily Jezebel was able to squelch the revival that seemed so close to sprouting up. He killed the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the grove. It seemed like revival would strike but when Ahaz came home to Jezebel it did not take her long to stir up persecution against Elijah and the nation. And Ahab and the nation soon forgot all that Elijah did.

Depressed and discouraged, Elijah went up to Horeb the Mount of God where Moses received the 10 commandments. It is located in Sinai Peninsula area. It is quite a journey from where Elisha was.

It was there that the Lord gave Elijah a new commission and vision of ministry. This vision is what we need in our day. It is a vision that a lot of people do not have and they miss out on it. The Lord told Elijah to find someone to replace him when he would be taken. So few people even care what will happen to God's work when they are gone.

Even in nature God gives examples of how in the natural course of things God placed in animals instincts to perpetuate.

Consider the salmon will sacrifice and travel thousands of miles to return to where they were born to bear their young. This will be the last thing they do.

The other day I saw a Killdeer near the front of my driveway. For over 20 years I have seen a Killdeer in that same spot.. They make a nest there every year. Now it can't be the same Killdeer because they only live at the max 10 years. So it has to be that of their young has come back to take over the same territory of their parents. Even Killdeer pass on the mantle, so to speak.

Some insects, the last thing they do in life is bear offspring.

How important cubs are to a she bear.

In fact, as we come into the spring season, we see example after example of God's creation propagating after their own kind and reproducing to carry on another generation of their species.

This is a great example to us of the necessity of reproducing spiritually. This is our commission and this is what we need to do.

Consider the process of passing on the mantle.

- I. THERE NEEDS TO BE A MANTLE WORTH PASSING ON.***
- II. THERE NEEDS TO BE AN ELISHA WHO GOD CHOOSES TO PASS IT ON TO.***
- III. THERE NEEDS TO BE A TRAINING AND PREPARATION FOR THE TRANSITION.***

CONSIDER IN OUR MESSAGE THIS MORNING:

- I. THERE NEEDS TO BE A MANTLE WORTH PASSING ON.
Elijah had a Mantle worth passing on.***

Do others see the ministry or work God called you to as something worthy of wanting and emulating?

EACH OF US CAN HAVE A MANTLE THAT IS WORTH PASSING ON EVEN IF WE JUST START WITH OUR CHILDREN.

Everyone has a mantle worth passing on.

The most valuable commodity we have in this life is our children. How sad it is when our children do not desire to continue on with our work and legacy.

Why does this happen?

I am thinking of a man who is one of the most successful and talented carpenters and construction worker that you would ever know. But not one of his children got involved in his business. I think one of the reasons this happened is because he had no patience with them. His grandchildren did not take up his work. He marred his mantle in the eyes of his children, mostly because of his impatience and intolerance of their frailties.

We have got to be very careful that we don't give our children the impression that what we do is more important than them. What good is a legacy if no one wants it because you marred it in the sight of your offspring?

It takes patience to train children and instill in them character so they can take up our mantle in the future.

Evie tells the story of how she remembers when we first came to the church that Shar had purposely spilled some cereal when she had a toddler hissy fit. So I spanked her and told her that she had to pick up all the cereal. Now she was only about 2 years old. Do you know how long it takes a toddler to pick up a whole box of cereal? When Evie said she remembered I made her pick them all up, but when she was not looking I scooped up a bunch of them and put them in the box. But when she turned around I scolded her and said, now you dropped them and you are going to have to pick them all up. Now the goal was not to get the cereal picked up off the floor, the goal was to teach Shar the consequences of having a fit and doing damage. It only took a second to spill the cereal but it took a half hour to put all the cereal back in the box. Child training and the necessity of teaching my daughter that when she has a hissy fit she has to pay the consequences was more important then the job of getting the cereal picked up. Our problem is we don't have the patience to teach our children. This contractor thought the job was more important than teaching his children how to do the job. It may slow you down to teach your children but in the end it will be worth it.

The problem with that talented carpenter was that the project he was doing was more important than teaching his kids how to do the project. Then he would lose his patience and yell at his kids making the whole matter an unpleasant manner of learning.

What was the Mantle of Elijah? The Mantle was his work, his ministry. This was worthy of honor and respect and it was something that godly people admired and respected. It had value, it had potential, it deserved respect and honor.

Now children will not want to take up that mantle if they perceive it as something that does not bear honor and respect. Most of the time it is because we are not honorable. Parents getting angry at their children. Parents acting dishonorable. Kids have supernatural dishonorable antennae. I don't know if God gives it to them or the devil does.

When I was in school students just knew what teachers to respect and which they could get away with just about anything. That was an example of the supernatural dishonorable antennae. They just know who is honorable and who is not. If your children do not honor you it may be because you have behaved dishonorable in their sight!

When we show inconsistencies, when we ourselves are dishonorable.
When we seem unfair.
When we are not willing to hand over that mantle to our offspring.

In other words, imagine when Elijah went over to Elisha and he wanted him to follow him. He says, Elisha I want you to take up mantle and Elisha says ok and goes to take it to wear it. And Elijah said.

BOY WHAT ARE YOU DOING GETTING YOUR DIRTY HANDS ON MANTLE?
Then imagine Elijah slapping Elisha's hand and saying, boy, get your hands off that mantle until you prove yourself.

NO NO NO. Elijah had to believe God that Elisha was called of God to take up the mantle. If you have children it is your job to teach them and it is their job to learn. They someday need to take up your mantle. Expect them to do this. God gave you them and He wants you to be successful in this process.

Elijah had a ministry that was worth handing down to someone, that was represented in the mantle.

In this story I first of all see a mantle.

That Mantle was a gift.
That Mantle was a ministry.
That Mantle was a calling of God.
That Mantle was a legacy that was handed down.

Sometimes the next generation does not take up the mantle because we are not willing to give it over to them or we have dishonored that mantle by our poor behavior.

What are some examples of mantles that God placed on our shoulders that are not our choice?

God makes it known who gets the mantle. It is God's choice and not ours.

We live in a day when children cannot even accept that God made them a male or female. That is a mantle God choose for us. It is a slap in the face of God to say He made a mistake or you can make this choice.

Parents, you can choose certain legacies you can pass on to your children.

There was a day when children did not choose their trade or career but that was passed on to them. The more noble the family the more noble the trade. In fact, in early centuries people took names from their trade name. Smith. Carpenter. In the Middle Ages, surnames often were derived from a person's occupation. Examples include Miller, Smith, Cooper, Fletcher, Driver, Skinner, Tanner, Hunter, etc. Many believe Proverbs 22:6 was talking about a trade and not necessarily salvation.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

This mantle is representative of a person's calling, trade, vocation.

Secondly in this story I see the recipient of the mantle, ELISHA.

We all have a mantle that we can pass on, especially if we have children.

II. CONSIDER THERE IS THE PERSON WHO THE MANTLE IS CAST UPON.

I Kings 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

Look, it was God that called Elisha to take up the mantle, not Elijah. Nor was it Elisha himself.

My wife and I watched a documentary about the Medici family in Italy. For 400 years they dominated and led in the city of Florence, Italy. In the documentary I noticed one thing. That the family stressed to the children their calling to do what they were to do from birth. It was not a choice. They were born into the family and placed there by God Himself. The parents stressed that with the children.

After seeing that documentary, I come to realize that one of the greatest mistakes that we make is putting an emphasis on our choice in what mantle we are going to take up.

Moses did not call himself to lead the children of Israel. God placed that mantle on his shoulders.

Paul did not chose to be an Apostle, that mantle was placed on his shoulders.

Elisha did not choose to take up the mantle. Elijah just went and put it on his shoulders by the command of God.

What is amazing is that Elisha just accepted this and left all and followed Elijah!!

Consider some of the characteristics of an Elijah.

1. HE WAS AN HONORABLE MAN AND A MAN IN GOOD STANDING.

HE HAD 12 YOKE OF OXEN.

1 Kings 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

Notice he had 12 yoke of oxen which means he had 24 oxen that he was plowing with. Only a person of means was able to afford such ancient plowing team. He obviously was not hurting financially. He spoke of his parents and when Elijah placed his mantle over him he had many friends and family that he slew two oxen and sacrificed them and had a feast.

I surmise that things were not going poorly for Elisha when he left all to follow Elijah. He was a man of means.

1 Tim 4 gives the qualifications of a bishop and one of the qualifications was that he should have a good report from those that surround him.

1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

2. HE HAD A LOVING FATHER AND MOTHER AND A GOOD BACKGROUND.

He cared for his parents. The Bible says,

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

There are a lot of people that are spiritually crippled in this world because they have been brought up in a dysfunctional home. They themselves carry a grudge against their parents. They don't know how to honor and love their parents because their parents have shown themselves dishonorable. So they will go through life spiritually crippled, unless the grace of God heals their hearts and they are able to cast off this bitterness.

NOTICE HOW ELISHA WANTED TO HONOR HIS PARENTS BEFORE HE STEPPED OUT TO SERVE THE LORD.

He wanted his parents' blessing on his ministry and he got it.

I Kings 19:20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

I sense that Elijah was not even sure that Elisha would follow through. He said Go back what have I done to thee. That doesn't sound too good????

Elijah was a toughened soldier, and knew that a true servant of the Lord needs to take up his cross to serve the Lord. Elijah was just obeying God in this matter. He had a lot of disappointments in life trying to convert Ahab. So he says, go back, what have I done to thee. It was not my idea to cast my mantle on you, I AM JUST OBEYING GOD. If God really touched his heart then he will return.

Elijah came to a point in his ministry that he realized people will disappoint you, so he did not expect much to come of this thing with Elisha, but if it did he would be pleasantly surprised.

I am never shocked when men do what is wrong, I am surprised when they do right! So this was the case with Elijah. He did not expect anything to come of this but he was just doing what God told him to do.

We should witness, not because we look to gain anything from it, we should witness because God told us to.

I Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

Today, probably over half of the children in our country are not doing well and come from dysfunctional homes. They are spiritually crippled from the get go.

But by the grace of God we need more godly parents and godly families raising children.

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Psalms 127:4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Psalms 127:5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

The world tries to make you feel like having children is a curse. It is not a curse, children are a blessing of God. We should not try to limit how many children we have. How foolish that is. The Bible talks about children of thy youth. In other words have children when you are young and healthy, when you can.

Children are called the heritage of the Lord.

Children are called the reward of God.. why would we limit a reward and say, I don't want too big a reward.

People say, oh, I don't want to bring children into this world. Yeah the reason this world is a mess is because Satan's people are having all the children. We need more godly children in the world. How did the nation of Israel become a nation? They did by multiplying.

God gave this command to multiply!

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The reason Satan hates children is because each child born into this world is a potential citizen of heaven, especially if those children are raised in a Christian home. Satan has brainwashed people into thinking they have to limit how many children they have.

Think of the arguments against having too many children.

A. *You can't afford them.*

God is the one that provides and takes care of us, such an argument limits God.

B. *My wife needs to work.*

Being a mother is the greatest work a woman can do. The reason you think the wife has to work and can't have children is because of one thing. That is money. This is an evil, because the Bible says,

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The Bible commands us to be fruitful and multiply. Will you put money over the command of God? It is one thing if you can't have children. It is quite another to purposely choose not to have children.

C. *Some would say the world is so evil I do not want to bring children into this evil world.*

This is a stupid thing to say. Will you surrender to the evil? Who knows but your child could make this world less evil, because you will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

D. Some would say, my house is too small to have children:

Abraham lived in a tent. Is God too small to enlarge your tent?

The bottom line is simply this. We have been brainwashed by the world and Satan in this area of limiting our families. Trust God in this area, don't limit God's blessings in your life.

The truth is that the only thing you can take with you to heaven is your children. They are eternal everything else is temporal. The only thing that will perpetuate are children.

How sad it is to think that we would trade a nicer house that is going to fall apart and burn in place of having children. What is it that we will put above this:

Some put a career, what good will that career do you when you get old?

Some put a house and car and material things above having a family. These will rust and fall apart.

Some put freedom to travel, and enjoy the pleasures of this life. This is vain and will soon be forgotten as you grow old and have no family to enjoy your latter years with.

Children are a heritage.
Children are God's reward.
Children are loved of God.

Elisha had a Godly mother and father, and their son went on to be a mighty servant of the Lord. Because he honored his parents, God chose him to honor Him and serve Him. We do not know which of our children will go on and do great things for God. But how can children go on and do great things for God when we do not have children and limit how many children God can give us?

I had a wounded pastor come to our church a few years back. They came out of a struggling church and had a lot of financial hardships in that work. Because of this his wife had her tubes tied so she could not have any more children they figured they could not afford a large family in the ministry. They had two children. They came here and heard me preach on this issue, and decided to undo the surgery and went on to have 4 more children. All of these children have gone on to serve the Lord, they are having children, and that man is now blessed with a large heritage for the Lord and grandchildren. He is getting up in age and I know he is happy he obeyed God in this matter.

- I. So in this biblical account we read about a mantle and what it represents.***
- II. Secondly we read about the one chosen to take up that mantle, Elijah's disciple "ELISHA.." He was a good man, a faithful man.***

Now let us consider.

**EVENING MESSAGE
THE PROCESS OF AN ELISHA MINISTRY**

**III. THE PROCESS OF LEARNING HOW TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THE ONE THAT ELISHA WILL FOLLOW.**

Consider the mantle.
Consider the one recruited to take up the mantle.

Now consider the process necessary to take over the work.

There is no greater work than the work of the Lord. The work of the Lord has been perpetuated now for 2000 years. The baton has been passed on from one generation to another to another for 2000 years now.

I remember brother Jack McKeeby was constantly concerned about who would take up the mantle and be the next generation to carry on this work. Almost every week he told me that he was praying for someone younger to come into the church to take up the mantle. You know I think he would be so happy to know that his grandson Lance is in church serving the Lord. What a blessing to know that. The work is being perpetuated.

First there needs to be a mantle, a work, a ministry to perpetuate.

Consider, the ministry of the Elkdale Baptist Church. We have been here since 1880. This work has perpetuated all these years because of people like Pastor Allan Rhodes, Linda Berol's Father, Pastor Cramer, Selwyn Schmitt, Arden Hollister, Jack McKeeby.

Do you know that most people don't stick to anything long enough to perpetuate anything. Their life's work is going to wind up in a garbage pile because they did not cast their mantle on anyone and never had the patience to work with anyone to perpetuate their work.

Jesus gave the process in what we call the great commission.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
Amen.

Elijah the last years of his ministry here on earth focused on what I want to call an Elisha ministry. That ministry consisted of focusing in on teaching others to carry on the

work that he started. In fact, that was not just with Elisha. This spread out even to the 7000, the Lord mentioned that had not bowed the knee to Baal.

Elijah said, I only I am left. He did not know of any other man of God, any other **prophet** of Jehovah, any other person standing for God. After this prophets started coming out everywhere in Israel. Prophet schools arose.

At this point Elijah stopped focusing in reviving a deadbeat nation and decided to encourage the remnant to come out of the closet.

One of the greatest **mistakes Jerry Falwell made** in his ministry was when he started up what he called the **Moral Majority**. This was an unbiblical concept. Because in our country we rely on voting and politicking to get things done we actually think we are going to have an impact on our nation through the voting and political machinery of this world. This will never happen. It can't happen because Jesus said,

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

THERE NEVER HAS BEEN AND THERE NEVER WILL BE A MORAL MAJORITY.
WE ARE SALT. IT ONLY TAKES A LITTLE BIT OF SALT TO AFFECT THE NATION.

Elijah had a great campaign to prove to the nation that the Lord is greater than Baal. He thought he could change the nation by showing God's mighty power. He prayed it would not rain for 3.5 years and then he challenged the prophets of Baal to a spiritual duel and won. He then showed the nation he could pray and bring rain, and it did rain. But when he saw that one devil could sway the opinion polls like a flick of a switch he saw it was hopeless. This is how fragile the political temperature of this country is.

When Elijah saw the national reform was hopeless he lost all hope and ran off into the wilderness and wished to die.

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

When a person has lost a vision for life, and sees that his dream is vanished, and realizes what he labored and worked for is coming to naught then he will go into despair and depression, losing all hope and just wish to die. He will run into the wilderness and hide from everyone, he will wish himself dead. God had to intervene in the life of Elijah or he would have died in the wilderness.

This is where God introduces Elijah to what I am calling an Elisha ministry.

This is a ministry that gets your eyes off of the multitudes and focuses in on one! That one is the Elisha. This was God's new call for Elijah. This goal was achievable. God told Elijah to go find Elisha and ordain him to take his place. This was the one that he threw mantle over. This would be the one that could perpetuate his work and go on to do bigger and better things for God.

THIS IS WHAT I CALL AN ELISHA MINISTRY. WHAT IS AN ELISHA MINISTRY?

1. **IT IS A MENTORING MINISTRY.**
2. **IT IS A ONE ON ONE MINISTRY.**
3. **IT IS A MINISTRY TO TRAIN YOUR REPLACEMENT.**
4. **IT IS A MINISTRY THAT SHOULD PERPETUATE.**
5. **IT IS A MINISTRY THAT IN TIME SHOULD GROW.**

Lets look at these points.

1. IT IS A MENTORING MINISTRY.

What is mentor? A mentor is a teacher. To teach you have to have a lot of patience.

A mentor needs to interact with the trainee.

The Lord told Elijah get down off his mountain of isolation and go cast his mantle on Elisha and mentor him to take his place.

People could say, I have no one to mentor.

Well when you are living an I ONLY I life you will never find anyone to mentor.

The reason People don't have children is because they are living an I ONLY I LIFE.

When your life is focused in on yourself only you will never come down from that mountain of Isolation. You will live in the slough of despondency.

You will never find an Elisha. God said to Elisha "Get thee down from this mountain.. and ...

Every child in your family needs to mentored.
Every grandchild needs to be mentored.

Every new Christian needs to be mentored.

There is this one teacher who was from Scranton that taught piano. I can't begin to tell you how many of her students have come to me and said, did you know "SO AND SO.."
I said yes I heard of her. Then they would say. I took lessons from her. She must have

been a great teacher and mentor because her name lives on with her students. In my business I can't begin to tell you how many people have mentioned her name to me.

Your name will live on through the people you mentored!!

Jesus never wrote a book but the disciples He mentored wrote of Him and said, all the books in the world could not contain the things He said and did.

You don't need to write a book to have an influence in this world. You need to learn to mentor others.

2. IT IS A ONE ON ONE MINISTRY.

This ministry is not a platform ministry. You don't need to know how to play an instrument, sing, or preach. You don't need to publish a book. You don't need to be world famous. It is just a one on one ministry.

An Elisha ministry is when you take someone under your wing and teach and mentor them for the Lord.

People need personal one on one learning experience. Every person is unique.

No two people have the same finger prints.

No two people have the same DNA.

No two people have the same needs.

An Elisha ministry is when you sacrifice your mantle with another so they could learn from you and grow through your leadership.

Since each person is unique they need a one on one relationship with a mentor. This is the ministry Jesus had with His disciples.

3. IT IS A MINISTRY TO TRAIN YOUR REPLACEMENT.

II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

The goal of this ministry is to perpetuate a work.

As the Lord said be fruitful and multiply with physical children.

So He tells us to be fruitful and multiply with spiritual children.

4. IT IS A MINISTRY THAT SHOULD PERPETUATE.

After Elijah focused in on this form of ministry, suddenly there were prophets popping up everywhere. The concept spread and Elijah's ministry multiplied. How is it that when

Elijah focused in on mentoring Elisha that others come out of the woodwork. Maybe as part of that process of teaching Elijah took Elisha around trying to encourage the 7000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal. The overflow of this work was that others were encouraged and others were emboldened for the Lord.

5. IT IS A MINISTRY THAT IN TIME SHOULD GROW.

Where Elijah focused in on one, ELISHA.
Elisha had an influence over many and over saw many prophet schools.

Two can do a greater work than one.

Did not Jesus say to his disciples that they would do greater works than what He did.

6. Focusing in on this form of ministry will encourage you.

It will get your eyes of yourself, get your eyes off of your problems, and will produce the fruit that God wants in your life.

A few weeks ago I said that by the grace of God, you never have to worry about the Elkdale Baptist Church closing as long as I am alive and have the health to serve the Lord. Why is this? The reason is simple; I am not looking to do big things. I am happy if God were to give me an Elisha ministry.

Jesus said where two or three are gathered there I am. So if my wife and I show up for church and someone else comes, that is a big enough ministry for me.

All you need is two.
Three is better.
If God gives 4 that is good, 10, 20.

Where ever God is that is a big enough place for me to be.

Conclusion:

In this message, we see:

- I. THE MANTLE THAT REPRESENTS ELIJAH'S MINISTRY.**
- II. THE ONE THAT RECEIVES THE MANTLE, ELISHA.**
- III. THE PROCESS OF TEACHING YOUR ELISHA THE ELISHA MINISTRY.**

Conclusion Invitation:

The story of Elijah and Elisha is a good story for us all to learn. It is a great story about leadership and followship. We are all either an Elijah or an Elisha. It is a great lesson to learn in the area of child training, discipleship, mentoring, and leading.

God wants to perpetuate His work. The greatest joy we can receive in this life is the joy of doing the will of God. Elijah was discouraged, so discouraged that he thought his life and ministry were over and just wished to die. God gave Elijah revival in his own heart by getting him to refocus on an Elisha ministry rather than worry about the whole nation.

Many Christians are so discouraged today. They are giving up hope. I have even heard some say they do not want to bring children into this world because of how bad things are. This is not good. God is saying to us get off your face, get out and find an Elisha. You say I can't find one. If you have children you have one! If you have grandchildren you have one. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and start looking at your Elisha and cast your mantle on his/her shoulders! The Lord ignored Elijah when he said it is enough take my life. He ignored him when he said, I only I am left. Finally He straightened him out in the end. God gave him a vision and a commission and purpose.

As long as you are alive God has something for you. He has something for you to do. Find that purpose in mentoring someone else or being mentored by someone else. All of us are either an Elijah who needs to mentor someone or an Elisha who need to be mentored. Consider what is being said, and I pray the Lord would give you the application to your life.