

**4-13-19 Memorial Message
FOR JACK MCKEEBY
Who will take up the Mantle
And ask for a double portion of his Spirit?**

Hymn: Gary

Special: Because He Lives

Prayer: Gary Schmitt

Introduction:

I have known Jack McKeeby all 36 years I have pastored this church. He was in the church before I came. I think he has been a member for about 45 years or more. I think the thing that characterized Jack McKeeby is that he was a man with a good spirit. He always had the best interests of the church in mind. He was consistent, faithful, steady. Jack was always there to keep me abreast of what was going on who was sick who was in the hospital. We made many a visit together sharing eternal life with friends and family members. I am really going to miss him. Before I share a short message from the word of God I am going to open up the service to others who want to share a testimony about Brother Jack.

Testimonies open..

II Kings 2:1 And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

II Kings 2:2 And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-el. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

II Kings 2:3 And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

II Kings 2:4 And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

II Kings 2:5 And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

II Kings 2:6 And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

II Kings 2:7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.

II Kings 2:8 And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

II Kings 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

II Kings 2:10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

II Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

II Kings 2:12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

II Kings 2:13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;

II Kings 2:14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

II Kings 2:15 And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

Intro: Thursday we got together with the family at Tuttle's funeral home and had a short viewing of brother Jack just before they took him away. At that little viewing I said that I believe God must have had a special love for Brother Jack McKeeby because of the way He took him. It was quick and merciful. He did not have a long stay in a hospital, he was doing what he liked to do, eating donuts, getting a cup of coffee, and going to meet his friends at McDonalds. As he was about to head out he just fell over and the Lord took him. I've known a few people who have gone home to be with the Lord that way.

I said at that viewing that it reminded me of the way God took Elijah. He was just walking along and God took him away. I want you to notice what Elisha's request was when Elijah asked him what he could do for him. Elisha said, oh that I might have a double portion of your spirit. What impressed Elisha about Elijah was his spirit.

Now I say to you what impressed me about Jack McKeeby all the years I have known him was his spirit. Jack McKeeby had a good spirit a godly spirit. In his latter years he could not do a lot of physical things for our church but this he did when he was here he emanated a good spirit to everyone. Now the reason he had that spirit was because he asked Jesus Christ into his heart and got saved. Russ Carman was sharing a few weeks back that the reason he came to the Elkdale Baptist Church was because he had heard that Jack McKeeby and Arden Hollister and Bob Cramer had gotten saved and were all going to this church called the Elkdale Baptist church. He said, he couldn't believe it and had to see it for himself. Apparently Jack had some rough times in his younger days, but salvation changed that. I know he would want me to challenge you to be converted just like he was some forty some years ago. The greatest tribute you could give to the memory of Jack McKeeby is to give your heart to Jesus Christ in Salvation or rededication. I hope that will happen to someone today.

You cannot have a good spirit unless you ask Jesus into your heart and He sends His holy spirit into your life. Jack McKeeby was a man who had a good spirit about him..

In our Bible reading we read that Elisha prayed for a double portion of the spirit of Elijah. My challenge to you this morning is this:

I. WHO WILL SAY GIVE ME A DOUBLE PORTION OF THE SPIRIT THAT JACK HAD?

Elisha wanted a double portion of the spirit of Elijah but who will ask the Lord to give them a double portion of the spirit that Brother Jack had?

First of all that spirit came from God. He was a man that knew the Lord and loved the Lord.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

That spirit was there when Jack shook your hand in church. You knew he cared for you and you were glad to see him and he was glad to see you. That could only come by way of the Spirit of God.

Jack McKeeby was taken away from us suddenly just like Elijah was taken suddenly, but Elisha prayed for a double portion of the spirit of Elisha. Who will pray to be like Jack McKeeby and get a double portion of what he had?

II. Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah and did similar works.

II Kings 2:12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

II Kings 2:13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;

II Kings 2:14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

Webster gives this Definition of mantle

(Entry 1 of 3)

1a : a loose sleeveless garment worn over other clothes : cloak

b : a figurative cloak symbolizing preeminence or authority accepted the mantle of leadership

What we need are men who will have a double portion of the spirit of Jack McKeeby.

But also we need people someone to take up his mantle.

Elisha said, Elijah was chariot and horseman of Israel.

We are living in a different day than when this was written, it is the church age. But the church needs men who will take up the mantle of those who go on to be with the Lord. But not just any men. Elisha knew he couldn't do the job unless he had the same spirit that was in Elijah, Not only the same spirit he felt he needed a **double portion** of that spirit.

Jack was faithful and like clock work. I remember times he came to church when he had walking pneumonia. He came to church and could not even hardly walk. But I never once heard him complain or even ask for prayer for himself. In his younger days he would pick up kids in New Milford and bring them to church every Sunday.

He was a horseman and a chariot to our church. Who will pray to the Lord for a double portion of the spirit of this great man. Who will take up his mantle? Who will do the works that he did?

III. EVERYONE KNEW THAT ELISAH RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH WHEN HE TOOK HIS MANTLE AND PARTED THE JORDAN RIVER.

II Kings 2:14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

II Kings 2:15 And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

Words are cheap. The proof is in what you do. No one had to tell Jack McKeeby to be faithful he just did it. In good weather and bad weather he was here. He was early to church to greet people. He plowed through the snow through the rain and if he had to I think he would have parted the Jordan river to get to church. My question to you this afternoon is who is going to take up the mantle of Jack McKeeby? You can't do it unless you have the same spirit that he had. I don't think they quite make men like him anymore.

The Bible says,

II Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

II Timothy 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Thirty six years ago I meet Jack McKeeby at this church. Jack never had a lot of money. I once talked to him in private about 35 years ago, I said, "Jack you have a lot on the ball you could probably have a lot more money if you wanted to I said why don't you? He said to me I think it would take me away from the Lord, then I said, then keep doing what you're doing. All these years that is exactly what he did. He never had a great car, nor lived in a nice house, nor ate in great restaurants. Many a time he asked me to meet him at McDonalds for breakfast. Every morning he would show up with a cup of coffee and some donuts. I'm going to miss that warm handshake every Sunday morning, the calls on my phone to remind me about who is in the hospital. In fact I have one of those reminders on my phone right now.

The constant reminders about getting some little thing done for the benefit of others or the church. He would say, now preacher I know you have a lot on your mind but.

In 2004 Jack came up to me and said preacher you know Mrs Schmitt is getting older and you should really talk to her about buying the property behind your house. (32 acres) I said to him Jack I don't need more property, that means more taxes and I can't afford the payments. Where am I going to get that kind of money. He said I know but whatever you got to do you should do it and buy that property. Every Sunday he would come up to me and say the same thing. Finally after about 6 months I said, all right Jack I'll pray about it and talk to Mrs. Schmitt. Then every Sunday he would say, did you talk to Mrs Schmitt yet? I would say no but I'm praying about it. Then the next year 2005 the same thing. Did you talk to Mrs. Schmitt yet? Every Sunday I would say no. He would say, I'm praying you could buy that property. I would say Jack where am I going to get the money to buy that property. He would say doesn't matter no matter how much it is you need to buy it. Sunday after Sunday. For 2 years he kept on me. Then in 2006 I talked to my son who was in college at the time and I said, If I buy the property behind my house would you want it? I will make the payments till you get out of school and then when you get out you can take over. He said ok, so I went over to talk to Mrs Schmitt and we purchased the land in June of 2006. Two and half years latter after Jack started to gently remind me of what I should do.

That was Jack McKeeby always thinking about others. Consistent, persistent, kind, a man who had a good spirit. Who will take up his mantle? NO ONE UNLESS THEY HAVE THE SAME SPIRIT.

Who will be like Elisha and pray for a double portion of the spirit?
Who will be like Elisha and take up the mantle?
Who will be like Elisha and do greater works than Jack McKeeby?

You can't do it with the Spirit of God in you!

Jack L. McKeeby

April 9, 2019

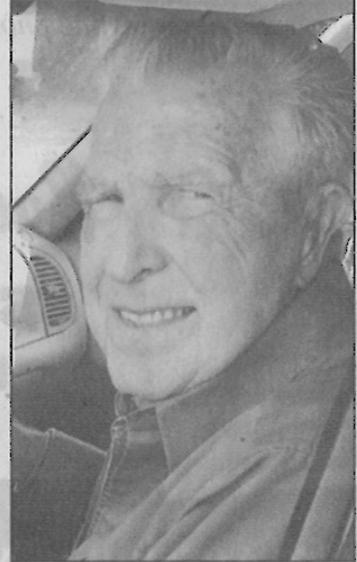
Jack L. McKeeby, 81, of Montrose, Pa., was promoted to glory on April 9, and reunited with his first wife, Alberta; second wife, Norma; grandson, Jordan Ralston; his stepson, Lloyd Donald Welch; his brother, Robert; and sister, Fran.

He is survived by his third wife, Linda Knell McKeeby; his daughters, Candi Barnard and Rick, and Rhonda Ralston and Derek; stepchildren, Bonnie Brigham, Debra Fitch, Larry Welch and Lorraine, Joel Welch and Sandra, John Welch and Bobbi Jo; 30 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; several great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack was a self-employed quarry man and a director of the Blue Stone Association. He had numerous other jobs over the years, including owning a gas station and working on the installation of Interstate 81 from the state line to Five Mile Point. Jack served as a deacon at the Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford, Pa.

His faith was very important to him and he truly lived it out. Jack's life verse is John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way the truth and life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

At Jack's insistence, his body will be donated to SUNY Upstate Medical University, as a parting gift for the advancement of medicine for



the future benefit of others. The family will hold a private memorial service at their convenience at his church.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Jordan Ralston Scholarship Fund, c/o NBT Bank, 841 Main St., New Milford, PA 18834.