



Sunday December 03, 2017
Moving To The Next Level

Read: 2 Kings 2:1-15 and 1 Kings 19:15-21

We do not have much information on age - how old Elijah or Elisha were when these events took place in their lives.

When Elijah threw his mantle over Elisha, Elisha knew what that meant - that he was called to follow Elijah and eventually take up his prophetic office.

We'd like to follow Elisha from his initial calling, through into his journey on how he actually stepped in to what he was called.

We glean five simple insights from Elisha's story of his stepping into his next level - going from being an assistant to becoming a leader.

We'd like to apply these lessons to ourselves personally - as we journey from where we are to where we should be.

#1, Serve faithfully

Elisha let go of his family and livelihood (farming), followed Elijah and was willing to serve under him, until the time came for him to step into Elijah's role. We can safely assume that Elisha served under Elijah faithfully. Unlike what we read later about Gehazi, who was serving under Elisha, but proved to be unfaithful and lost the opportunity to step in to Elisha's role. We have no indication how long this period of serving under Elijah was.

Serving faithfully under Elijah was a pre-requisite, which he fulfilled well. But now, in order to step into the next level of his call, there were still some very important things to be done.

There are some important lessons we can glean from 2 Kings 2, on what it took for Elisha to step into the next level of his call. Here is what we observe:

#2, Stay on the journey, until your moment arrives

We must keep journeying, until our moment of opportunity, until the moment of stepping up, of breaking into the next level, arrives.

Elisha stayed with Elijah through several destinations: Gilgal > Bethel > Jericho > Jordan

For some reason (perhaps to test his tenacity) Elijah encourages Elisha to bid farewell, at different stops.

Even the prophets at various schools of the prophets, seem in some way discouraging.

But Elisha stays the course. He knew his call was to step into Elijah's role - that was his next level - and he was not going to let anything rob him of that.



Don't quit your journey into the call that has been clearly revealed to you because of distractions, discouragements or even a lack of discipline.

#3, Desire and ask, but also pay the price

It is safe to assume that Elisha must have always desired to have a double portion of Elijah's anointing.

When given the opportunity to ask for just one thing - without any hesitation, Elisha asked for the double portion (vs 9-10)

It seems evident that Elisha also knew the price he had to pay for this. He had to stick with his leader faithfully, till the end. This was affirmed by Elijah who told him that he had asked for a hard thing, a very tough or severe thing. But "if you see me when I am being taken away from you"....in other words, the price is that you have to stay with me till the end...the very end.

We must desire, we must ask, but we must also be willing to pay the price to step into our next level.

What is the next level that God has for you?

What is the price you need to pay to get into that next level?

Desire for your next level. Ask God for it. But also be willing to pay the price for it.

#4, Prove yourself in the new level you have stepped into

Elisha received the mantle of Elijah (vs 13).

But Elisha didn't simply walk around with Elijah's mantle, showing it off to every one: 'see, I am wearing Elijah's mantle. Can't you see it on me? Even smells like him...'

Elisha calls out 'where is the Lord God of Elijah' and then uses the mantle to part the waters of Jordan (vs 14).

Then when the other prophets saw him, they acknowledged that transition that had happened - the Elisha was in standing in Elijah's place (vs 15).

As God ushers you into your new level, let your work go before you, and your reward will come after you.

Don't go about bragging, talking about your stepping into a new level.

Let your work speak for itself.

Then people will eventually recognize that God has taken you to a new level.



#5, Go beyond the previous

Elijah's last, was Elisha's first. The last thing that Elijah did (parting of Jordan), was the first thing Elisha did. Elisha started where Elijah left off.

Up until this time Elisha's role was one of serving, observing, assisting. The new level he had stepped into required a 'different Elisha'. He was not the one watching the waters part. He was now the one having to part the waters.

At each new level, you go beyond your previous level - in what you do, the way you do things, etc. The scope, magnitude and impact of what you do at your new level, will be far greater than your previous level.

Every new season will require a new you.



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday December 03, 2017
Moving To The Next Level

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: *2 Kings 2:1-15*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, We discussed five simple insights from Elisha's story of his stepping into his next level - going from being an assistant to becoming a leader:

- i), Serve faithfully*
- ii), Stay on the journey, until your moment arrives*
- iii), Desire and ask, but also pay the price*
- iv), Prove yourself in the new level you have stepped into*
- v), Go beyond the previous*

Share your thoughts on these and perhaps any other insights you can draw from Elisha's story.

#2, Based on today's discussion, what are some practical things you can do to move into your next level of God's call on your life?



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learnings today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>