

Elisha: Called to Service

Scripture Readings: 1 Kings 19.15-21 & 2 Kings 2.6-14

After his lapse of boldness and trust into numbing depression, Elijah's work was extended and strengthened by the appointment of a disciple and successor, Elisha. Here we learn something of those who are called to live by faith in order to perform specific service. We think in this connection of Bible heroes of old, but in more recent days, Hudson Taylor, Norman Grubb, C T Studd, George Muller, Theodore Epp, Edwin Orr to give a few of the better known examples. Of course all Christians are called to live the life of faith in Christ, from the moment we first tremble at Calvary and see Him as the sin bearer, and every day following until we are at last called into His presence. Ephesians 2.8-10, Romans 1:16&17, Galatians 2:20, Mark 11.22&23

God Usually Calls Ordinary People.

Elijah was from Tishbe, and therefore probably a farmer. Here he lays his hand on the shoulder of another farmer. He calls fishermen, tax officials, as well as doctors, theologians and princes. Which Bible people had these occupations? God might be calling you!

God Often Call's Those Who are Busy

v19. That is he calls when we are going about our business. He expects the same diligence in His service as we give to our daily tasks. He called Peter to fish for men with the same skill as he fished Galilee. See Psalm 78.70, then Amos 7.14&15, Judges 6.11-14.

God Usually Calls Through Others.

See v19. Look up Acts 9.10-14 & 13.1-4. These are two more Bible examples. If a word comes to us through a godly Christian we ought to consider it carefully but note these following

cautions provided for us by Francis W Dixon:

The need is not the call. Needs abound on every hand, and no one can meet them all. The need alone does not constitute a call

The opportunity is not a call. There are many opportunities, some of them urgent, but the opportunity does not constitute a call.

Our ability is not a call. We may be qualified academically, spiritually, psychologically, and in socially. But our suitability to do a task does not constitute a call.

An invitation is not a call. Someone may place his hand our shoulder, but he may be just touting for candidates. An invitation does not constitute a call.

Attractiveness and desire is not a call. The opportunity may tug at our heart. We may burn with desire to serve the Lord, beware, the attractiveness and

desire do not constitute a call.

Whilst we may take into account these five considerations, the call of God is that deep inward conviction arising from the urging of the Holy Spirit, confirmed by God speaking to us through His word and accompanied by a deep peace of heart at our submission.

God Inevitably Calls to Difficult

Tasks. See v 16&17. Once we enlist in the Lord's service we become the objects of Satan's attack. See Zechariah 3.1 and Ephesians 6.10-20. Sometimes this opposition comes from the most unexpected quarters. We must expect opposition that is physical, spiritual and emotional. In order to survive we must be sure of our calling.

God's Call is Always Clear and

Definite v19-21. Moses at the burning bush, and the apostle Paul on the Damascus road are shining examples. Less dramatic but just as real to the people involved is that of others, such as Joshua, Joshua 1.1&2, or Jeremiah, Jeremiah 1.4-10. For most of God's servants today, their call was a quiet conviction which God has verified by His word and has confirmed through subsequent experience, both in inward peace and outward demonstration. But for all it was quite definite.

God's Call Must Precede This Service.

We should not assume the Divine prerogative. Jeremiah 23.21. All Christians are included in the great commission, John 20.21, but specific service requires a specific call. We assume a false calling at our peril. The anointing of the Holy Spirit cannot be duplicated.

God's Call Always Includes His

Enabling. See v 19. The mantle is the symbol of power and authority. See 2 Kings 2.13&14. Also Exodus 33.15, Joshua 5.13-15, Acts 1.4&5, John 14.16&17 to name a few of these verses. Of course it is God's provision for every Christian that we should be fully equipped to meet every need and demand that obedience to Him demands. See Colossians 2.9&10.

God's Call Demands an Acceptance.

Need we say more?

God's Call Can Always be Verified.

Compare 2 Kings verse 2.8 with verse 14. What God did for Elijah, He did for Elisha, a demonstration that the authority of God has passed to him. Compare also Judges 6.34-40, 1 Samuel 17.34-37. Go expects us to verify His calling, and to build confidence in small things, safe challenges, before stepping out into bigger things. See Mark 6.7-10

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

These notes may be reproduced in part or in full when distributed without cost, with the words 'Used by Permission, Glen Park Gospel Church.' included.
Visit us at glenparkgospel.org.au