



*Elijah & Elisha*

# THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH

1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2

# The Spirit of Elijah

## Elijah/Elisha Series Refresher...

- ✦ Ahab & Jezzy
- ✦ Baal worship rampant
- ✦ Showdown at Mt Carmel
- ✦ God meets with an exhausted and depressed Elijah and restores him
- ✦ God tells Elijah to find and anoint Elisha to take his place





# The Spirit of Elijah

## The Story – 1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2

- ✦ Elisha is called by Elijah to follow him by throwing his cloak at him
  - ✦ Elisha immediately accepts, says good-bye to his parents, and promptly eliminates his source of sustenance
  - ✦ Signifies his complete break from his former home and way of life/vocation
  - ✦ Reminiscent of the calling of the disciples in the NT

# The Spirit of Elijah

## The Story – 1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2

- ✧ Elijah means “the Lord, he is God”
  - ✧ it was his mission to establish this and call God’s people to repentance
- ✧ Elisha means “God saves”
  - ✧ Elisha’s ministry was very much a healing/redeeming ministry.
  - ✧ One of his first acts was to heal the bitter water at Jericho redeeming it from the curse of Joshua
- ✧ Moses & Joshua; John & Jesus






# The Spirit of Elijah

## The Story – 1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2

- ✦ Elijah is told by God to visit 3 different places
- ✦ Each time they set out Elijah tells Elisha to stay behind. Elisha refuses
- ✦ The prophets tell Elisha that God has revealed to them that He is going to take Elijah. Elisha knows and tells them to keep it quiet
- ✦ Elijah and Elisha cross over the Jordan river on dry land



# The Spirit of Elijah




<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

<sup>10</sup> “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not.”

<sup>11</sup> As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

# The Spirit of Elijah



<sup>12</sup> Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. <sup>13</sup> He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. “Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

– 2 Kings 2:9-14

# The Spirit of Elijah

## The Story – 1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2

- ✦ The 50 prophets who witnessed the scene beg Elisha to send a search party out for Elijah
- ✦ “Did I not tell you not to go?”
- ✦ Elisha goes to Jericho and heals the water that was bitter
- ✦ Elisha curses some young boys making fun of him
- ✦ Elisha has the power to both bless and curse





# The Spirit of Elijah

## The Application

### 1. God calls, we respond

- ✧ God always initiates
- ✧ The calling of Elisha is the same calling that Jesus calls us to... To leave our former life and follow him
- ✧ Story of rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-30)
- ✧ The calling of Jesus is one of total commitment – a complete break from your former life
- ✧ A call to leave behind our idols



# The Spirit of Elijah

## The Application

### 2. What do you want from God?

- ✦ We all want something from God
- ✦ Elisha understood what was best – a radical commitment to the things of God... To desire what God desires
- ✦ Guilty of trying to manipulate God to get what we want
- ✦ A double portion – each generation must take up the mantle of making disciples and continue what was started before us

