**What Are You Doing Here?**

**I Kings 18:41 – 19:21 (Lesson #16)**

***18:41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain." 42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. 43 And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. 44 And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man’s hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’" 45 And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. 46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.”***

**Vs 41 -** This is really interesting, the prophet keeps directing the king and the king keeps following his instructions.

**APPLICATION:** *“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.” (Pr 21:1 ESV)*

We have to wonder what is going through the mind of Ahab, he has just watched fire fall from heaven in response to Elijah’s prayer, proving the Yahweh is God. He then watches are 450 prophets of Baal slaughter.

**Vs 42 -** Interestingly enough, he leaves, and he seemingly goes “up” to eat and drink. We are not sure where, he goes. Did he go somewhere on the mount. Elijah goes up to the top of Mount Carmel.

There on top of the mountain, he bows himself down on the ground and places his face between his knees and he prays! This is the posture, and we will see in a moment this is exactly what he is doing.

Yahweh has overthrown the false god Baal. Yahweh has consumed the sacrifice instead of the people.

He did so publicly, as Elijah asked, with the goal of turning Israelites back to Yahweh. He answered his prayer with fire. **Now, Elijah is asking him to answer his prayer for rain!**

**Vs 43 -** Here we learn something we did not know apparently, along with Elijah, this entire day was his servant.

Elijah sent his servant to go look out toward the west towards the Mediterranean Sea. He comes back… Nothing. But Elijah keeps praying… He does this seven times. Go look towards the to the sea.. Nothing…

The promise of God did not make prayer unnecessary, rather it made prayer mandatory. Elijah prayed six times, with the answer “no” between each time but he kept praying

**APPLICATION:** Persevere in prayer! *“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” (Col 4:2 ESV)*

*“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,” (Eph 6:18 ESV)*

**Vs 44 -** Then on the seventh time, the servant comes back… He says: **"*Behold, a little cloud like a man’s hand is rising from the sea."***

At this Elijah responds: ***“Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’"***

**Go up** to Ahab and tell him to **go down** from the Mountain!

The drought has last 3 ½ years, but it is over now. God has once again fulfilled His word.

**APPLICATION:** If God says it, that settles it. Where God speaks about something He does so with absolute authority.

**Vs 45-46 -** How long do you have to wait for your prayers, even the ones that are according to God’s will to be fulfilled. The answer varies, but in this case the answer was, this afternoon, the answer was now!

The heavens grew black with multiple clouds and the wind picks up. Ahab rides to Jezreel:

1. He had a palace in Jezreel **(I Kin 21:1).**
2. It appears that Jezebel was in Jezreel **(I Kin 19:1)**.
	1. Why was she not on the mountain for the great showdown? We do not know.

Then the Lord moves upon Elijah and he gathers up his garment and runs before Ahab and gets to the entrance of Jezreel. **This would have been roughly 17 miles**. This would have been exhausting.

You can imagine what is going through Elijah’s mind. This is it, the fire from heaven and now the rain from heaven. **Elijah runs to Jezreel and gets there before the king. Like a herald, Elijah arrives in Jezreel. His news, the Lord HE is God, he consumed the sacrifice and He is sending rain.**

As Elijah runs for Jezreel we can imagine that his heart is **leaping**, he is **filled with joy**. God has delivered by fire at Mount Carmel, and now God has sent rain (as he promised), surly Ahab will lead the people back to following Yahweh.

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***19:1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." 3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.***

**Vs 1 -** Now of course we are not there, and we are not exactly sure what Ahab told Jezebel, but I do find it interesting how the writer of Kings describes it: **Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done. How he had killed the prophets.**

Ahab was there, Ahab tarried on the mountain. Ahab should have been telling Jezebel **all that Yahweh had done**. He should have recounted the nothing that Baal had done, and how God had sent fire from heaven and consumed not only the offering, but wood, the stones, the water, and the soaked earth.

**He should have been telling Jezebel how the people had turned and proclaimed Yahweh!**

He should have been saying no more Baal worship in my home. *As for me and my house…* ***(Josh 24:15).***

**APPLICATION:** Men our wives are prettier than us, smarter than us, maybe have a better prayer life than us, but I would challenge us to be **the spiritual men that God has called us to be!**

**Vs 2 -** So Jezebel’s fury is directed towards Elijah. Her threat, you will be dead by tomorrow.

We see her **theology is unchanged**, she believes in the **gods**, for sure **Baal and Asherah.**

Now it is worth noting that **she did not send men to kill him**, but **instead she just makes a threat**! Maybe, creating fear in Elijah was her goal.

**Vs 3** - THEN, the threat arrives from the hand of a messenger and then, Elijah is afraid! Here we see a **side of Elijah** we **have not seen**.

Another possible translation:*“And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.” (1Ki 19:3 NKJV)*

Elijah, arose and **“ran for his life”** and came to Beersheba, took a break, and left his servant there. He exited the Northern kingdom went into the Southern kingdom. He kept running from Jezebel!

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***19:4 But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." 8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.***

**Vs 4 -** Beersheba, even in the southern kingdom was not far enough, and he went a **day’s journey deeper in the wilderness** of Judah.

Ultimately, **likely exhausted** and **extremely discouraged**, he sat down under a **broom tree**. Now a broom tree is a scruffy, bush like tree. It gets a maximum of maybe **ten feet tall**. So, he crawls up under this broom tree, and there Elijah prays again, but this prayer is very different than any prayer we have seen Elijah pray.

**Vs 4b - *"It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."***

**Interesting Note:** The man who prayed to die (Elijah) is one of only two men who never died (Elijah and Enoch). **Aren’t you thankful that sometimes God does not give us what we ask for?**

Clearly, he is **very frustrated** and **very depressed**.I hear him saying, **I am done!**

This is the mighty prophet Elijah and we see him under the broom tree saying **Lord, please take my life!**

**God having showed us Elijah at his best, now shows us Elijah at his worst.**

In seeing this I think there are some things **we can learn** here to help us on **spiritual journeys. First, we have seen this in other men of God:**

**Moses (**Nu 11:10-15), **Job** (Job 10:18-19), **Jeremiah** (Jer 20:14), and **Jonah** (Jon 4:3).

If these men can experience dark thoughts, moments of doubt and times of despair even to the point of contemplating suicide or wishing they had never been born, **I think we can too.**

I would like us to consider possible reasons from the text why Elijah might be suffering from extreme depression. In understanding this biblically; it can help us when we find ourselves in a similar place!

**OK, how in the world would a man who just had this amazing encounter with the false prophets of Baal, now be to the point where he is asking God to “take his life”?** I visited Psychology Today and Harvard Medical to find the external triggers, that can lead to major depression. From that review, one point and ten external triggers for major depression:

1. First, stressors have a cumulative effect, the more stressors the greater the likelihood of major depression.
2. External triggers that can lead to major depression:
	1. Loss of an important relationship
	2. Conflicts
	3. Betrayal
	4. Loneliness or Isolation
	5. Experience of loss of control or job loss
	6. Financial difficulties
	7. Fatigue
	8. Unmet expectations
	9. Guilt
	10. Poor diet
	11. Poor sleep quality

**Do we see any of these in the life of Elijah?**

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I would add:

1. He possibly feels like a failure - **Vs 4b -** ***I am no better than my fathers…***
2. Could this be pride? **Vs 4b -** ***I am no better than my fathers….***

Maybe he was certain he was going to turn things around. Maybe he was certain that he was the man.

**When we find ourselves feeling depressed, we may need to see or doctor, it could be some type of chemical imbalance. But, we definitely need to see the Great Physician through prayer and His word and be reminded of the truth.**

We do not know, but some or all of these could have been in play, and in spite of past successes, here we see Elijah at the bottom of the barrel.

**MESSIAH:** This reminds us that although Elijah was a mighty prophet, he was not “the mighty prophet” that had been promised. *“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.” (De 18:18 ESV)*

**Elijah needed this mighty prophet, Elijah needed the Savior.**

Elijah knew the people of God needed a prophet better than their fathers, better than David, better than Solomon, better than Asa.

OK, so we saw possible reasons for **Elijah’s spiritual depression** and his **suicidal thoughts**.

Now, let’s see if we can glean some thoughts from the context of this story about possible cures. **What we might call antidotes to spiritual depression.**

**Vs 5-6 - Antidote #1**, Elijah may not remember at this moment in his journey, but **God loves him**. God sent and angel who touched him. There is nothing more personal in the human experience than touch.

When we hug one another, that personal touch is communicating, I care about you, I love you.

**God is here, sending an angel to touch his child!** When you find yourself in a dark place spiritually remind yourself about what the word of God says about God’s feelings towards you.

**Antidote #2,** God provided food for Elijah. God provides for his children. Elijah was no doubt very hungry, and God provided food and water for him.

Our prayer… Give us this day our daily bread.

But it is more than just physical food, we are provided with spiritual food from the Word of God. You and I are reminded of who we are in Christ Jesus and in Him we have everything we need!

**Antidote #3,** Elijah, may have felt alone, but here he is, in the **presence** and **under the watch care of God!** What a picture, Elijah is running away from Israel, from the people he should be ministering to, from his calling and from God.

God like a hound from heaven is chasing after his servant, he is with his man, even in the **darkness of doubt and despair.**

**APPLICATION:** You and I may find ourselves alone, but never forget, alone we may be, **but we are never alone!**

**Antidote #4**, Sometimes what we need is physical rest. This is what God provided for Elijah. This is oftentimes what we need, simply food and rest.

Now what we should be seeing is a wayward prophet and a loving Father. **That is our story too you know!**

**There is not a rebuke to he found here**, only the loving care of the Father. God will deal with Elijah’s **lack of faith** soon enough, but not right now.

**APPLICATION and MESSIAH:** Ultimate rest, spiritual rest, the rest that the world is looking for is only found in Christ Jesus. Real relaxing physical rest is only possible if we have found spiritual rest in Christ!

*“****28*** *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ***29*** *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Mt 11:28-29 ESV)*

**When we find ourselves here, at the end of our ropes, when we have “had enough”, we will find that Jesus is “more than enough” to satisfy our thirsty souls!**

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**Vs 7 -** We know from the writer Hebrews that angels are ministering spirits send forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation (Heb 1:14). We also know, that in some cases in the Old Testament, the **Angel of the Lord** is a preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ, **what Theologians call a “theophany” or “Christophany”.**

Let me show you one: *“****2*** *And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.* ***3*** *And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."* ***4*** *When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."” (Ex 3:2-4 ESV)*

**Here, we see that God is caring for His prophet**, he has a planned journey for him and Elijah is simply too weak and too exhausted to make the trip. The angel comes a second time.

**Vs 8 -** Then Elijah arose, ate and drank and travelled for **40 days and 40 nights** to Horeb, to the **Mountain of God**.

**Is anyone familiar with Mount Horeb?** Yes, it is just another name for **Mount Sinai**, the **Mountain of God** (Deut 4:15, 5:2; Ps 106:19, Mal 4:4).

A straight trip from Beersheba (he was actually one day south) to Mount Sinai is roughly 180 miles. If he walked at 3 miles per hour for 12 hours a day that is 36 miles a day. This would be like a 5-day trip.

At 40 days, Elijah would only need to average 4.5 miles per day. So, this trip was very slow and deliberate.

We recognize that this period is **designedly symbolic**. As the children of Israel had a notable **spiritual failure** and were made to wander **forty years in the wilderness**, so a defeated **Elijah was to spend forty days in the desert**. This reminds us of the temptation of Jesus, 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness.

**APPLICATION:** When we hit times of depression, despondency, and discouragement, we too need encounters with the living God, we too need to feel his presence and to sense his nearness.

When we find ourselves in times like Elijah the one thing we must run to is the Word of God. It is through His word that he speaks the clearest to us. It is in His Word, where I am reminded of who He is, what He has done for me, and often I am not only given a fresh perspective, but a fresh touch from His Spirit.

**Vs 8b –** Here we see Elijah is being directed to Mt Horeb. To the place where **God made a covenant with the nation of Israel.** To the place where **God met with Moses and gave him the ten commandments.** To the placewhere **God descended on the mountain in smoke and in fire.**

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***19:9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 15 And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. 17 And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."***

**Vs 9** - **So, after the 40 day and 40 night journey**, sleeping in the wilderness and likely living off the land, Elijah finally arrives at the mountain of God. We can picture he ascends the mountain, and there somewhere near the top he finds a cave, (likely a small cave, but for sure a cave).

This *cave* may well have been the specific ‘cleft of the rock’ where God appeared to Moses.

*“and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.” (Ex 33:22 ESV)*

We are hopeful that 40 days in the wilderness had reset Elijah’s attitude and his perspective. We are hopeful that the Lord has restored to Elijah, the joy of His salvation, and has renewed a right spirit in him.

**Vs 9b -** The **word of the Lord** comes afresh to Elijah, God speaks to his prophet, this time it comes not as a balm to anoint the bruised spirit, nor as the bread of life to nourish the famished soul, nor even living water to refresh a parched spirit.

**Instead…** **It comes as a question**, that is meant to challenge the prophet, a question that is meant to refocus the prophet. **The question…** ***"What are you doing here, Elijah?"***

**APPLICATION:** Have you ever had God ask you that question? I have, multiple times, when I am throwing a pity party or when I am not where I should be.

I would suggest that when God asks us that question, the right answer is normally to repent, Elijah takes a different course of action and in so doing, exposes the **root** of his problem.

**Elijah’s response…**

**Vs 10** - The question was not why are you here physically. What God was asking, which by the way, Elijah recognized, is Elijah what has brought you to this point **spiritually**, self-reflect, **why are you here?**

**Stated differently, why are you NOT in the northern kingdom, the kingdom of Israel, fulfilling the ministry that I called you to fulfill, namely as a prophet of God, speaking the word of God, to a rebellious nation who I have chosen to speak to through you.**

Elijah’s response is threefold, all **half-truths**, and it highlights **three kinks** in his spiritual armor, namely **self-righteousness**, **self-pity**, and **self-importance**. Elijah’s answer exposes why Elijah is there, spiritually, so let’s walk through it for there are points of application for us!

1. ***I have been very zealous for Yahweh.* Of course, on the face, at first glance, this is true.**
	1. He faced Ahab, faced the false prophets of Baal and Asherah, and faced the nation.
	2. But, he fled from one wicked queen, fled from the people he should have been ministering too, and fled from his calling.
		1. Like Jonah, fled from where he was supposed to be.

**Very zealous, yes…** Lately, No. **Equally, this is very self-righteousness.** This is a very high view of self: *“So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’"” (Lu 17:10 ESV)*

1. ***The children of Israel have forsaken your covenant and torn down your alters and killed your prophets.***
	1. True, on the face? Yes…
	2. But what about the **100 whom Obadiah** hid in caves, what about the **thousands, there on Mount Carmel**, who fell on their faces and cried out ***Yahweh, he is God!***
	3. What about the false prophets that Israel executed at Mount Carmel?

Some had forsaken Yahweh and killed some of His prophets, yes… All had forsaken and killed all the prophets, NO! **This is self-pity**

There is another point. I was waiting for Yahweh to say something like, you have no idea what you are talking about, and these are not your prophets, they are mine!

1. ***I alone and left and they are trying to kill me.***
	1. On Mount Carmel it looked like Elijah was the only one left and Jezebel was trying to kill him.
	2. But we know **he was not the only one left**, and there is no **“they”** in the story of his opposition. As far as we know the only ONE who has made a threat is Jezebel.

This is a very wrong and very high view of his **self-importance**.

*“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” (Ro 12:3 ESV)*

All of these are sorta true, based on some truth. But they are all at the end of the day false, thus none are true.

**This is Elijah’s response… Let’s see God’s response to Elijah.**

**Vs 11-12 -** So Yahweh directs Elijah to go and stand on the mount, to stand before Yahweh. To step out of the cave.

Then we read that Yahweh, passed by, and a great and strong wind, tore the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks. But, the Lord was not in the wind. Powerful and incredible! But, Yahweh was not in the wind.

Next, after the wind an earthquake there on Mt Sinai. We can imagine the mountain reeling and rocking, boulders rolling down the side of the mountain, as it shook… Yet Yahweh was not in the earthquake.

Then it appears fire descended on the mountain, no doubt this would have been amazing and powerful, like the fire that reigned down on the altar at Mt Carmel, yet God was not in the fire either.

After the fire, there was the sound of a ***“low whisper”*** what the King James writers translated as a ***“still, small, voice”,*** there was the **quiet whisper** of the **omnipotent**.

**Vs 13 -** No doubt barely audible, like the last little set of beeps you hear on the hearing test before your ears can detect no additional sounds.

In the quiet whisper, Elijah heard God afresh, he wrapped his face in his cloak. There, as God called him out of the recesses, what was a barely audible sound, is now quiet, yet audible and discernable words.

**APPLICATION:** It is not in the miraculous, but rather in the still small voice that men and women can be changed and/or come into a saving relationship with God!

As he listened closely, the words took form, it was a question: ***"What are you doing here, Elijah?"***

**Vs 14 - Elijah responds…** This is not just the **same response** the Elijah gave God when he first arrived. This is the **exact same answer Elijah gave when he arrived**, and these are the **exact same words.**

We now cannot help but wonder how many times the prophet practiced this answer during his 40 day journey.

**Vs 15 -** Having heard his complaint, twice now. Yahweh says to his servant, to Elijah his Son. **Get back to your calling.** There is work to be done. I have work for you to complete… Go to the wilderness of Damascus… Anoint Hazael as the King of Syria.

**APPLICATION:** God (the Lord Jesus) is the sovereign not just over Israel (which He is) or (the church) which He is. **He is sovereign over the entire kosmos**.

**FURTHER APPLICATION:** If he is sovereign in the big things of life, rest assured he is sovereign in the small details of our lives.

**Vs 16 -** Further, Yahweh directs Elijah to annoint Jehu the son of Minshi as the King over Israel. Equally, he is to anoint Elisha, the son of Shaphat of Abel-mejolah to serve as prophet in his place.

Elisha may have felt like he was the last man standing, but God has been raising up his replacement this whole time.

**Vs 17 -** WOW, it appears that Elisha, is going to be an amazing and incredible prophet as well.

**Vs 18 -** Now God takes the opportunity to correct another half truth. Elijah felt like he was the only one left. Then he learned about Elisha (two left). Then God says, you are not even close, there are thousands who have not bowed (in spite of Jezebel and Ahab) to Baal, their mouths have not kissed the false God.

God refreshes his prophet and then directs him back into the spiritual battle. **He does the same with us…**

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***19:19 So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" 21 And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.”***

**Vs 19** - So he made the **long trip home**, we hope that he has a new attitude, we hope this fresh encounter with God and the revelations that have come with it have helped revive our brother spiritually.

There in the northern empire in the region of Abel-meholah. He found Elisha who was busy at work.

More than likely servants are on the first eleven pairs and Elisha himself is ploughing with the 12th pair.

**Elisha is likely the son of a wealthy land-owner and he is working the fields that will one day be his.**

I can picture this in my mind. Elijah, strolls over to Elisha and “casts his cloak upon Elisha”, and keeps walking. By casting his mantle on Elisha, he is designation the younger man as his assistant and his successor, his under-study and his replacement.

Now, Elijah did not choose Elisha. God chose Elisha to be his prophet, and although the call is coming from Elijah (humanly speaking) it is really coming from God.

**APPLICATION:** Just as God called his prophets in the Old Testament, Jesus called his disciples in the New Testament (Mat 4:18-20; Mat 9:9).

And just as Jesus called the original 12 the same God is the one who called you and I, through the gospel (Acts 2:38-39; IITim 1:8-9; II Thes 2:13-14).

**Vs 20 - Immediately**, Elisha stops plowing, he drops the reigns, and he runs after Elijah.

We can only imagine that **Elisha knows who Elijah is** and he knows that **he is being called to follow Elijah** as he serves as a prophet of **Yahweh**.

We see that Elisha catches up with Elijah and says: ***"Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."*** Theologians and Bible teachers disagree as to what Elisha is really asking for.

I take it me mean just what Elisha said: I will follow you, let me run home and kiss mom and dad goodbye and I am all yours. **I will follow you to the end of the earth as you follow Yahweh!**

**APPLICATION:** That is the offer God made to each of us. He said follow me. He did not say follow me as long as I meet your expectations, take care of all your desires, make sure you have it nice soft and easy.

This is what it means to be a disciple. At the very basic, bottom line it means to follow God.

**ANOTHER APPLICATION:** The older Elijah is calling (as directed by God) the younger Elisha to follow him. **This is a good model.** Young men learning how to follow God from older men. Young women learning how to follow God from older women.

**This is what Jesus did with the 12, he called them to follow him and to learn from him.**

The Elijah responds: ***"Go back again, for what have I done to you?"*** Now Theologians and Bible teachers also disagree as to what Elijah means.

I take it to mean, hey I am not telling you that you cannot say goodbye to your loved ones. **Feel free to go back, I am not attempting to hinder you from saying goodbye.**

**Vs 21 -** So Elisha went home and throws a **Bar-B-Q**. Elisha went home, we can be assured he kissed mom and dad goodbye and said I am following Elijah the Tishbite wherever God may lead him.

**Then he…. Burned the ships!** He took the yoke of oxen that he owned, the ones he was plowing with, and sacrificed them, the boiled their flesh on an open fire that was comprised of the wood that make up the yoke.

He gave the food to those in attendance as they ate from the bounty of his former life.

He arose, caught up with Elijah and became his assistant, he became his under-study. **One gets a fresh stat with Yahweh while the other gets a new start.**

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