

July 24 & 25, 2021

Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson

Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

Heroes of Faith 5: Elisha

I. Announcements & Prayer

- **This Weekend** – We will worship **outside @ 5pm Saturday** and **inside @ 9:20 and 11am Sunday**. You can also listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or thechurchnextdoor.org. **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – The **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am and 6:30pm** on **The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website yournextstepnow.com as well as all podcasting services.
- **TV Show** – The **Your Next Step** TV show is normally airing after Saturday Night Live, **Saturdays @ 1am** on **NBC4**. Set your DVR!

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. When have you had to change locations for a job? What was great about that change, and what was not great?
2. What is the most meaningful piece of clothing you have ever worn (i.e., graduation gown, wedding dress, doctor's coat)? How did wearing that make you feel?

III. Bible Study

Read **Luke 4:24–29** (NIV)

24 "Truly I tell you," Jesus continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. **25** I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. **26** Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. **27** And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." (See 2 Kings 5)

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. **29** They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. **30** But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

1. What good qualities did Elijah and Elisha have that made Jesus compare Himself with them. How did the crowd listening to Jesus react to this comparison? What is your reaction to this comparison today?

Read **1Kings 19:14** (NIV)

14 Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

2. Elijah lost his perspective for a moment; he couldn't see what God was doing. Why do you think he lost perspective like this (hint: there are multiple reasons)? How do we similarly lose perspective and how can we get that perspective back?

Read **1Kings 19:15–19** and **Isaiah 61:1** (NIV)

15 The Lord said to him [Elijah], "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, **anoint Hazael** king over Aram. **16** Also, **anoint Jehu** son of Nimshi king over Israel, and **anoint Elisha** son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. **17** Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. **18** Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives..."

3. God first told Elijah to anoint Elisha, but Elisha later asked for that anointing to be a "double portion" (see 2 Kings 2:9). Jesus understood He was anointed and so did ministry with authority. Why is it acceptable for us to ask God for an anointing? How will understanding our anointing enable us to do ministry? How can we help each other ask for and understand this?

Read **1 Kings 19:12–14** (NIV)

19 Elijah went straight out and found Elisha son of Shaphat in a field where there were twelve pairs of yoked oxen at work plowing; Elisha was in charge of the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak over him. **20** Elisha deserted the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please! Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye—then I'll follow you."

"Go ahead," said Elijah, "but, mind you, don't forget what I've just done to you."

21 So Elisha left; he took his yoke of oxen and butchered them. He made a fire with the plow and tackle and then boiled the meat—a true farewell meal for the family. Then he left and followed Elijah, becoming his right-hand man.

4. What did Elisha's sacrificing of his oxen and yoke mean for his future? Why does following God require turning away from the world? Are there any things we need to turn away from right now?

Read aloud:

Elisha, whose name means "God is salvation," was the successor of Elijah in the office of the prophet in Israel (1 Kings 19— 2 Kings 13). He was called to follow Elijah in 1 Kings 19:19, and he spent the next several years as the prophet's protégé, until Elijah was taken into heaven. At that time, Elisha began his ministry, which lasted about 60 years, spanning the reigns of kings Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Joash. Elisha received a double portion of God's power and he was accepted as the leader of the sons of the prophets. Elisha then went on to perform twice as many miracles as Elijah. (Pastor Doyle's sermon notes)

5. How was Elisha's ministry different from Elijah's? Why do you think it was so different? What can we learn from both of them that will bless us to do great ministry?

2 Kings 13:20–21 (NIV)

20 Elisha died and was buried.

*Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. **21** Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.*

6. Elisha's faith resulted in a ministry that continued even after his death. How does that fact encourage you to greater faith? What can we begin to do today that might result in a continuing ministry after our deaths?



Moving People Closer to God
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