

The Mantle

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat...Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him. 1 Kings 19:19-21 NASU (The Narrative) Elijah coming down from the desert mountain. Haggard by sleeplessness. In awe of the presence of God. Walking with deliberate steps commissioned by the Voice. He is in Abel-Meholah, the meadow of dancing. (The only other mention is when Gideon had victory.) Elisha, eldest son, 12 yoke of oxen. Son of Shaphat, a judge.

I. Taking the Mantle

The situation of Elisha is a metaphor as Elijah is plowing Elijah to plant seeds.

- **What is the mantle?**

“Hairy robe”, Zech 13:4, Matt 3:4 as John the Baptist

The mantle comes to us; we do not go to the mantle.

The mantle is the *calling forth* of God. It redefines our lives, our priorities, our associations...It’s our destiny, the way we are wired.

- **The mantle carries the authority of God**

The mantle carries the authority to do the works and deliverance of God.

And he saw ²Elijah no more. Then ^bhe took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³ He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and struck the waters and said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he also had ^astruck the waters, they were divided here and there; and Elisha crossed over. 2 Kings 2:12-14

- **The mantle becomes our identity.**

(When Elijah is taken up Elisha tears off his old clothes and take on the mantle. Elisha was one used to following.

He is plowing in the winter making the ground ready to receive seed.

Where are we working from the mantle and where are we working out from under it?

- **The mantle means a change...transition**

- **Of fathers.**

- **Of the familiar**

What are the areas of familiarity for you?

Elijah was commissioned to tear down the false gods in the land. Elisha is going to do twice the miracles and noted for healing and resurrection. Even falling on his bones will bring the dead back to life.

Leave the familiar behind and “go to” a new place where only the grace of God can sustain...

Abraham “leave your country/What is *normal*

“leave your family system”/What is *familiar*

“leave your father’s house”/What is *comfortable*

Moses left the familiar privilege of Pharaoh’s court

David left the serenity of the shepherd’s life

Kiss parents goodbye, get the blessing./Reognize our heritage

Burn the plow./sacrifice/burning our bridges to the past/healing

- **We only wear one mantle at a time.**

Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but ^afirst permit me to say good-bye to those at home." ⁶² But Jesus said to him, "^aNo one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:61-62

Celebrate the community./generosity

II .The Calling of Disciples

The mantle comes to us when we Jesus says, “Follow Me.” It becomes our sole identity, our office, our authority, our life.

There is a change of fathers when we take on the mantle.

Abraham left the house of his father Terah

Elisha left the house of his father Shapat, the judge

Simon Bar Jonah,

James and John sons of Zebedee

Gideon son of Joash, Judges 6, hiding in the winepress or conquering the Midianites,

Elisha will bring the unceasing oil, resurrect the Shunamite’s son, heal the poison stew.

What is the practical application of the mantle of God? Marriage and family, marketplace, culture, the church.

III. Passing the Mantle

Mark 6, sent out, take nothing but the mantle.

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also 2 Tim 2:1-2

- **Passing the mantle to our children; natural, spiritual...**