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(that Broadcast - after 16 yrs on the Station.)

PRAYER FOR A DOUBLE PORTION

2 Kings 2:9

INTRODUCTION:

It is exciting to look through the Bible as we have been doing for two or three Sunday mornings and discover some of the wonderful, wonderful examples on prayer. *Man noted for Habit of sleeping in Ch. called Pastor to suggest*

a little prayer that be appropriate for him to pray upon taking his seat - "In your case" said the pastor, "I believe I would pray "Now I lay me

Every Christian has to decide what he wants most. What will be the down to sleep priority in his life.

Every Christian has to decide what he wants people to remember him for. What does he decide to achieve in life.

The same thing with business men, professional men. They have to decide how they want to be remembered.

The only hope of the church being approved by God and meeting the challenge of the day, is for the church people to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

We desire more than anything else to be known as the people of God. Such a man was the prophet Elisha.

There are three or four things that happened in this man's life.

First of all, as we study these pages of history - he was a prosperous farmer.

He was simply known and respected in the community for his ability as a farmer.

1K 19:19

Second, he became known as a servant of the Lord - serving Elijah. The prophet Elijah came along and called him and he responded. And he followed in the footsteps of the prophet and served the man of God.

When Elijah passes off of the scene, Elisha is to continue his ministry. And we discover here the third thing he is known as. (The man of God.) When he came into town, people thought of him as the man of God.

So here is a man who is a farmer, known as a servant of the prophet, and lastly as a man of God. Now there is hope in the world today if we could get a whole generation of men and women who would in the same way.

I. First, note his preparation

(No man becomes a man of God by accident.) Spiritual maturity does not happen to an individual who drifts along. He must be prepared and disciplined.

First, there was an (encounter.) This is a word that is on the market today and used very often. We encounter something, people say. Elisha was out plowing one day, and the prophet of God, Elijah came by. Speaking for God. He called this young man into the service of God.

What a spiritual experience this was for Elijah. He was a dedicated young man and he loved God and wanted to do what was right. He had this encounter with God.

Before you or anyone can become a man of God, you'll have an encounter with God. That is God is more than just some far off manager of the universe. It has to be something personal in the heart which results in salvation.

Have you felt this touch on your life. Have you heard something that God has whispered in your heart. This was the first step.

2-
1K19:19

Second, (commitment) ^{Surrender} He not only had an encounter, but the (prophet's mantle) was cast on Elisha, 1 Kings 19:19. The mantle was the call of God. That is, God has chose you for a task. And God's man had cast the mantle over him. Now what will Elisha do with the call. And the responsibility has been shifted now to the young man.

1K19:21

He demonstrated his surrender by taking the yoke of oxen and killing them. 1 Kings 19:21. This is a testimony of his surrender. By taking these expensive oxen and killing them - he was burning his bridges behind him. And this is necessary - that no half-hearted surrender will do. Compromise and discipleship will never change the world.

Each of us must evaluate and examine our own surrender and commitment - what sort is it, how deep, how complete, have you broken from the old life.

3-

(thirdly), (service) So there is encounter, surrender, and service. Before Elisha could come to a place where he had all that God wanted him to have, he had to lose himself in service for God. And this is where power comes. You earn the right to be used mightily of God. Now you may desire to be used of God, but he had to do this before he could even pray the prayer that we are going to come too in a few moments.

He had to be content to abide by God's time table. Now this is where many of us have problems. To humbly serve God in obscurity. Many times during these 10

years or so, Elisha must have longed to do larger service. To do a little more. But first of all you must surrender your life completely to God and tell God that you will serve him. Not how you will serve him, or when and where. Because God may take your talents away from you.

Matt. 16:25 - For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it. And whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall save it.

For these many years Elisha humbly served Elijah and he served God.

Elijah came to the end of his ministry and he asked the young Elisha what he could pass on to him. What he could leave with him.

2K 2:9

The request here - 2 Kings 2:9 - without any hesitation or delay he offered a prayer. That a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. More than anything else, he wanted a double portion of the spirit that rested upon the prophet. Whatever God had done in the life of the great prophet, he wanted a double portion of it.

It seems to me that this is what God has promised in our day, to the man who will open his life to the holy spirit. Jesus declared, John 14:12, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do, shall he do also. And greater works than these shall he do." The man of God upon whom God has poured out a double portion of spirit, will perform even greater works in this world than our Lord.

Prayer in Australia
Prayer - Bless the young man
Amen - Fill his cup - Amen - fill
his glasses also - knock him over so the
blessing will spill over on us

II. Realization.

2K 2:11-13

How did God answer the prayer Elisha performed eight major miracles. Elisha performed 16. From the time that he took up the mantle of the old prophet, it was obvious that he had a double portion of the spirit.

The answer to his prayer was revealed in three ways. And this will happen in your life if you will let the spirit of God have its way in your being.

I - First there will be a double portion of compassion. Elisha was a man who cared about people. He was moved when he saw people in the Lord. He wanted to serve them. He primarily wanted to meet the needs. He shared the burdens they carried. And when he saw people, it touched his heart.

2K 4:1, 2, 6-7 One day, he saw a home, a widow. The husband had died and she had a heavy debt. And men were trying to collect the bills and threatened to take all that she had. He told her to get the pots and pans, and then from a small cruise of oil, he instructed her to pour the oil. The oil refused to run dry. She paid her debts as she sold the oil. And this is an eternal truth. This miracle. The woman really needed help and Elisha had compassion and really cared for her. Her heart was broken. And as we say today, he hurt just as she hurt.

Our church needs the same kind of care of the people about us - deep compassion.

II - Secondly, a double portion of wisdom was given. He had the wisdom that came to him. Not knowledge. But wisdom. Now many people know a lot of things but they have very little good common sense.

2K5:9-10 The first thing is - he was unimpressed by important people. He was not over whelmed by the pop and the fan fair of the people. That is seen in the case of Naaman, he was a leper. A prominent, and Elisha treated him as a leper. He treated him in such a way that this man became obedient to God's command in his life.

All down through history the church has had a problem with this. James 2:1,9. The tendency of the church was to cater to people who were prominent. We need to pray that God will not let us be impressed with a person. Because of earthly importance. But to see that people hunger after God. Even the lowest creature. Each man bears the mark of sin in his life and that's the message.

2K5:15-16 The second thing we see in the story of Naaman is, he was unaffected by material things. Naaman came back to Elisha and wanted to give the prophet pay but he had been endowed with a double portion of wisdom. And had he accepted that gift, it would have gone down to the glory of Elisha and not to God. And so he was wise enough to see that God got the glory. God would provide for his needs. How many today are over whelmed with material things.

Everything, some people do is to see what they can get out of it. Now here was, thank God, one minister of the Gospel who served people with compassion and the aspect of his ministry was not to get something for each act. He was not concerned about this. But he was concerned in serving and caring for people.

Jesus said, no man can serve two masters - for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other. And he goes on to say, seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Matt. 6:24,25, and 33.

2k 5:20

Elisha's servant, Gehazi is a perfect example of what happens when people are distracted by material things. He came after, after the Syrian stopped him and he wanted a gift that he might give to his master. Now the great man was wise enough not to get the gift. But Gehazi denied what he had done. And V.129 was stripped of all the things that he had and became a leper. What a price he had to pay for his greed.

I think there is a real danger today - the greed that takes hold of men and women. And even those in the ministry, ordained of God. Who moonlight with other pursuits other than the Gospel. For the purpose of making a few dollars. They have this thing going and that thing going. I think that is why the rich young ruler couldn't be a disciple - Mark 10. Material possessions became his soul interest. Now there is nothing wrong with working to maintain a living. And Paul apparently did this.

Yesterday - Boys in Sharon Dr. Developing Home made Tower - Bomb. Succeeded with Gun Shell - 1000 lb Power Supply Fire Exting. Gun Powder, steel, - Exploded - 1 hand gone + 3 young Boys wounded
Flying Metal -
- One Kind of Power -

III

Third, a double portion of power.
spiritual power. What an exciting thing to live and to serve a living, powerful God.

He is a perfect example of this. So powerful was his spiritual life that he became known and men knew it. Elisha came into view of people when he came into a town. And they said, the man of God is coming. Everyone knew it. The power of God rested upon his life. Now the world needs men like that today. We may impress the world with culture, education, etc.

Listen, even after Elijah's death - and Elijah had died and was buried and there was a faction fighting a war in the area of the tomb where he was buried.

And they came over the tomb of Elijah and they buried one of their slain soldiers. Very quickly, they threw the dead man in the grave of Elijah.

2 K 13:21
2 Kings. 13:21 - When the man was let down and touched the (bones) of Elisha, he revived and stood up on his feet. Even the bones of Elisha, revealed that he had a double portion of power. The man's life was over on the earth, but Elisha was dead - and God's power was still upon him. His influence and power emanated from that place. That is the kind of power that the world needs today. We need men and women who have the power of the risen Christ - who are filled. Who are controlled by the spirit of God. Acts 4:33.

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

You must decide what you want most. You must decide how you want the world to see you. May God help you and help us to desire this prayer - that a double portion of the spirit of our Lord - that will bring compassion, wisdom, and power in our lives.

2 K 13:21
Where is the God of Elijah? - with Elisha - with us today -