

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH, LEKKI 1, LAGOS.

DIGGING DEEP: 06/06/2023. THEME: ELISHA; HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY [1]

TOPIC: CALLED AND EQUIPPED FOR SERVICE

TEXT: 1 KINGS 19:15-21 AND 2 KINGS 2:9-13

INTRODUCTION

We rounded up the study of Elijah first week in the month of May 2023. Today, we commence the series on the life and ministry of Elisha.

Elisha in Hebrew means God is my salvation. By way of background, his parents were still alive [1 kgs 19:20] when his ministry began. He was a farmer, but gave up his profession when he was called [1 kgs 19:19-20]. Elijah, whom he served, schooled him. Elisha was no doubt, a strong man of faith, as we shall see in our study over the next couple of weeks.

OUTLINE 1:

A. God Can Call An Unlikely Person For Service.

- Elisha was an unlikely person to be called, as he was a farmer. Nothing to show he was in ministry prior to his call. Exo 3:1, 1 Kgs 19:19, Ps 78:70, Amos 7:14, Acts 9:15, 1 Corth 1:26-29.

B. Elisha's Call Was Clear, Definite And Unmistakable.

- Elisha's call was definite. In 1 Kgs 19:16, God directed Elijah to anoint him to be a prophet.
- Similarly, there were such definite calls in the days of early church. See Acts 13:2-3 and Luke 5:10-11.

C. What Constitutes The Call Of God?

- Regularly, God called His prophets/apostles and not the other way around. The need, opportunity, ability, desire may not necessarily constitute the benchmark for one to be called.
- However, that deep inward conviction, accompanied by peace in the mind and in line with the Word of God, is it! 1 Kgs 19:20-21, Romans 12:2.

D. Elisha Accepted God's Call To Service Along With The Special Equipment For Service.

- The mantle of Elijah that was cast upon Elisha was a symbol of anointing.

- Similarly, there were other instances of such in the New Testament. 1 Kgs 19:19, Matt 3:16, Luke 24:49.

E. How Should We Respond To God's Call To Service?

- There is need for urgency, determination, commitment and wholehearted surrender. 1 Kgs 19:20-21, Acts 8:29-30, Luke 9:61, Luke 5:10-11.

OUTLINE 2:

A. There Are Consequences In Making Mockery Of A Prophet

- The dictionary meaning of mockery is insulting or contemptuous action or speech. Making someone an object of laughter.
- Nevertheless, what was Elisha's offence? 2 Kgs 2:23-25.

B. How Did God View This Mockery? It Was A Deliberate Attack On God.

- The attack on Elisha by the 'little children' happened in Bethel.
- Bethel was known as a stronghold for idolatry and apostasy.
- God viewed it as a deliberate attack on Him since those children felt Elisha came to abolish idol worship. 1 Kgs 12:26-30, Acts 9:4, 1 Chronicles 16:22.

C. Was Elisha's Action Wrong?

- The proof that his action was not wrong is the fact that God endorsed what he did by sending swift and terrible judgment upon the enemies of His name. 2 Kgs 2:24, Acts 5:1-11.

CONCLUSION

God can use or call an unlikely person for service. He sees the heart [Jeremiah 17:10]. We must guard against having a distorted view of God or persecuting the Lord's anointed.