



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Discovery Digs Series, Lesson 7

Lesson Title: Elijah's Fiery Ride

Take Home Point: God gave us an earthly mission and a heavenly home.

Warm-Up:

Most people have no idea when they are going to die. Some with a terminal illness allowing consciousness at the time of death, or a few with mortal injuries may be aware their death is near. But most of us do not know. If we did know, what would we do? Would we try to figure out how to avoid our departure from this life? Would we delay all preparation until the last minute? Are there certain actions so important to us that we would attempt to accomplish them prior to death? Would we want to be alone or with those close to us? Would we spend the remainder of our time with loved ones, doing things we enjoy doing? Just as importantly, what would those who care for us do if they were also aware our time on this earth was coming to an end? Would they try to stay with us, or would they procrastinate and keep to their schedule of activities? How would we get ourselves and others ready?

Read: 2 Kings 2:1-18; 2 Corinthians 5:9

Observation (What happened?):

What means did God use to separate Elijah and Elisha when it was time?

How did Elisha cross back over the Jordan River after Elijah departed?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Elisha insisted on staying with Elijah no matter what?

Why did Elisha want a double portion of the spirit that was on Elijah?

Insight:

Elijah stands as one of God's truly special human messengers. First, he was only one of two people in the Bible not to die at the end of his life. The other was Enoch, as recorded in Genesis 5:22-24. Then the last Old Testament prophet, Malachi, promised Israel that Elijah would be sent before the day of the Lord arrived (Malachi 4:5). In response to his disciples' question, Jesus said that Elijah had already come in the form of John the Baptist, but he had not been recognized (Matthew 17:11-14). Third, Elijah reappeared in the New Testament, with Jesus and Moses at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-3). Why was he there? Elijah was the greatest of the prophets. He pointed the Israelites back to the law and obedience, but also forward to the coming of the Lord. Jesus came to satisfy the law's demands for sinless perfection as he said earlier in his ministry (Matthew 5:17). At the Transfiguration, the disciples saw the full spectrum of God's design – Moses establishing the law; Elijah calling to repentance according to the law; Jesus fulfilling the law.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Are you looking forward to eternity with God and his saints? How are you getting ready?

What is your mission for God right now?

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