

Intro: Everyone has SOMETHING deep in their heart that they desire from God. I'm not talking about the new car, the bigger house, the better job or the perfect boat. What I'm talking about has nothing to do with physical things, the things of this world. I'm talking about the things that REALLY matter...spiritual things...eternal things.

- We desire our children Know Jesus, to be healthy and happy...and to be good, decent, productive people
- We want our spouses to be blessed with the desires of their hearts...to be fulfilled. Feel significant
- We want OUR life to count for something...to make a spiritual difference...to make a positive impact on world

The wisest man that ever lived said it this way: Solomon, blessed by God with wisdom no one ever matched!

Eccl 3:11 *"He (God) has also set eternity in the hearts of men!"*

We want to MATTER!

That is the request Elisha makes of Elijah in the passage of scripture we look at this morning. Elijah...*"can I matter the way you matter!"* Elijah...can you pass on to me what you have...that anointing, that spiritual power, that presence of God in your life that allows you to make a positive spiritual difference everywhere you go. I want to change the spiritual climate of a nation...Face Down false prophets...Call Kings to account...Elijah...I want to be like YOU!

2 Kings 2:1-14

1. The Desire of Elisha's Heart. Vs 9

Elijah knows leaving: Asked: What can I do for you? You know I'm leaving...God is taking me home...Make a request

- **Elisha's Request:** *"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit!"* Two ways to see this:
 - >Can I be twice as spiritually powerful as you are Elijah: (Seems a little arrogant)
 - >More likely: *"Will you give me your blessing as the 'eldest son'"* According to Deut Double portion
 - ~*Will you acknowledge me as your spiritual heir?*
 - ~*Let everyone know...I am your "son in the faith"*
 - ~*Will you make me "first among all the other prophets"*
 - ~*Pass on to me your spiritual authority and gift and office*
 - **Elijah's Response:**
 - >That is HARD request: Elisha...THAT is not mine to give to you!
 - >That comes from God: HE is the one that grants spiritual power HE grants spiritual authority
 - >The calling to Prophetic office is not something I can do Elisha...God does that!
 - >God reserves to Himself the right to anoint, to appoint, to empower, to call and put in place His prophets!
- >**BUT:** If you seem me when I am taken to heaven...It will be a sign that God has placed His blessing on you

And So...they make this journey...I'm going to call it: The Road to Blessing...and, notice this...It's not just Elisha's journey...it is OUR journey as well...In exactly the same way Elisha had this desire to be used of God...we have that same desire...and if we are going to have that desire fulfilled...we are going to walk the exact same path Elisha walked

2. The Path To Blessing. Vs 1-8

Again, there are two ways of looking at the path that Elijah and Elisha walked that day.

As Brother Sean said last week, the Bible is literal and physical...as well as metaphorical and spiritual.

Look at how this path is detailed for us...and look at how BOTH communicate something to us.

- **Physical Path is Obvious:** Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho to the Jordan River (at least 3!)
 - First three held "school's of prophets" established by Elijah... It appears he is on a farewell tour!
 - Tour finished at the Jordan River where Elijah is taken by flaming chariots to heaven!
 - On the surface level Elijah is saying good bye...and He is testing Elisha's commitment.
 - Every stop along the way he says the same thing: *Elisha: Stay here!* Elisha responds...no way!
 - On a purely physical level, this is about *"How much do you want it Elisha? How hungry for blessing are you?"*

BUT...THERE IS MORE GOING ON HERE THAN JUST THE PHYSICAL! THERE IS THE METAPHORICAL...REMEMBER, PHYSICAL TYPES AND ALLEGORIES IN THE OT FORESHADOW SPIRITUAL TRUTHS IN THE NT. KEY IS FOUND IN NAMES!

The names of the places they go have very specific spiritual significance and meaning...just like all names in the OT do. When you understand what the name means you get insight into the character of the person...or nature of the place

For Example:

Joshua: Lit means: *God is my deliverer...God is my savior!* Joshua WAS the deliverer of the nation
When you remember Joshua is the OT YESHUA...or Jesus: God is my savior...God is my deliverer!
Elijah: *Yahweh is MY God!* Make sense...Yahweh, NOT Baal, not any other Canaanite or other foreign God
Jordan: Lit = *Flow or flowing Down*: Physically water flowing down to sea: *Spiritually Power of God Flowing!*

So, KNOWING THAT...NOW lets take that journey with Elijah and Elisha...Journey to the BLESSING Elisha asked for!
Remember...the desire of Elisha's heart is to have the spiritual power and blessing of God in his life...so that He could be used of God the way WE want to be used of God...so what journey do you have to take...to get your blessing?

4 Places Where Elisha Was Tested To See If He Would Receive The Blessing He So Desperately Wanted Each of the places they visited were INCREDIBLY SIGNIFICANT in Israel's History and Symbolic of Spiritual life!

- **Gilgal:** Means to "*roll away*" or to separate from something
First mention of Gilgal is Joshua 4: They crossed the Jordan...Set up stones of remembrance at Gilgal!
Very first stop in the Promised Land, Land of Abundance, Land of Plenty the land of BLESSING!
At THAT place all those males not circumcised were circumcised: All military men were dead...these were all born in the wilderness...not yet of age...not responsible for disobedience,
Circumcision was a covenant sign of the people of God: People of obedience, Faith, Commitment
In THAT place they received the blessing of the PROMISED LAND! First night EVER in the promise!

Gilgal means: *To roll away, or to separate!* Josh 5:9 "*today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt*"
It is representative of separation FROM Egypt (from sin, from desert) TO Promised Land with God!
Elisha: Do you want the blessing of God: **REQUIRES SEPARATION FROM SIN**...Can't Have God and Sin
That is what circumcision was all about: Physical sign of a spiritual commitment...START THERE!

- **Bethel:** Means "*House of God*" Bible Trivia: Anyone remember who gave Bethel it's name?
Jacob! Gen 28:10-19 Running for his life, stops for the night...stone for pillow...has a dream!
Stairway going to heaven: Receives the Promised Blessing of God! Descendants, prosperity, all the nations of the earth blessed through YOU Jacob... He woke up...SURELY the Lord is in this place and I wasn't aware of it! He received the blessing because he was Dwelling in House of God!

Later in Israel's History, Bethel is where the Ark of the Covenant was kept! **SYMBOL OF HIS PRESENCE**

Elisha...do you want the blessing of God...REALLY want it? Then DWELL with God! Stay with Him
Remember ... your blessing comes from Him...and Him alone...Dwell with Him...blessed: Don't Arent!
SEPARATE From the World...To God...and DWELL in His presence: Joshua in the Tent of Meeting!

- **Jericho:** What do you think of when you think of Jericho? Joshua fought the battle of Jericho...walls tumbling
You remember the story...March around the walls 7 times...blow trumpet...walls come down!
That is CRAZY! There are LOT of different ways to try and take a fortified city...but this is strangest
What is God teaching His people: To TRUST Him...and to WALK IN FAITH! Oh...it is all well and good, all easy to talk about walking with God...until He tells you to do something like THIS!

Elisha: Do you want your blessing? SEPARATE, DWELL, WALK in faith! Not by sight! Trust that what God calls you to and what God leads you to...and what God tells you to do...is RIGHT! Do that: Blessed

- **Jordan:** You remember the Jordan: They had to cross it to enter the promised land. Symbolism is so clear.
Passing from one life...the only life they knew in the desert the OLD life ...to a NEW life...Leaving the pain, struggle, trials, death of desert...and walking into the new life that God has for you...LAND OF BLESSING!

Elisha...do you want your blessing: Then you have to leave the OLD life behind: Go to the life God promises...the life flowing with blessing...life the way HE intended... Can't have both...choose which life!

3. The Confirmation Of Blessing.

Vs 13-14

Vs 11-12 Elijah is taken up to heaven in flaming chariots with horses of fire, leaving in a whirlwind...Drops His MANTLE

- Elisha did a couple of things...pay attention.

~Tore his garment...Sign of mourning and grief. But at the same time. Does away with His old life Picks up new

~Took up Elijah's Mantle: Sign and symbol of His Prophetic office. He takes it up...and he is now holding in his hands the fulfillment of his desire.

~Remember 50 OTHER prophets from Jericho are watching all this. They see it..and you KNOW there is at least ONE of the 50 that's thinking...Hmmm...maybe it should be ME! Who is Elisha?

~Tested Blessing!: Goes over to the Jordan, Does EXACTLY what Elisha had done earlier, struck the water with the mantle and asks the question:

WHERE NOW IS THE LORD, THE GOD OF ELIJAH?! AND THE WATER PARTS AGAIN!!! CROSSES OVER

- Vs 15: The 50 prophets...who have watched the WHOLE thing say: *"The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha"*
They went to meet him...and bowed to the ground before him.
And that is how Elisha received a double portion...the inheritance...of the Prophetic office of God

CONCL: Everyone has something deep in their heart that they desire from God....It's not a THING...It's an IMPACT

What blessing do you want from God? I'm not talking about physical things...Im talking about Spiritual:

- Do you want to make a significant impact for Jesus
- Do you want to be used by God to change the spiritual climate around you?
- Do you want to BE a man or woman of God...not just TALK THE TALK BUT WALK THE WALK
- Do you want to MATTER Spiritually?

You Can...You just have to walk the path...no other way.

Separation: Leave sin behind...Separate FROM THE OLD LIFE>>>>TO THE NEW LIFE

Dwell in Presence: Being in the "house of God" Not just in Church: IN His PRESENCE
Like Joshua...staying in the tent of meeting...
Everyone else has a life back at camp...Joshua is with God

Walking by faith: Trusting God's wisdom...not your own...listening...and doing
Not just talking the talk...but walking the walk
When He leads you to Walk around the Walls, Call all 450 Baal Prophets,
Set up an altar for sacrifice and douse it with WATER!

Cross to a New Life: Jesus said it in John 12:24-25

"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Want your blessing? Separate, Dwell, Walk, Cross over

If you aren't living that blessing out? Am I separated fm Sin? Am I Dwelling? Am I walking in faith? Have I crossed

- Maybe today you are ready to leave your old life behind...start a NEW life...with God...over the Jordon...
- Maybe you know Him...STILL living OLD LIFE! Living in Desert...Running over to Promised Land...and Back!
- YOU CAN MATTER...YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...YOU CAN BE USED OF GOD TO CHANGE YOUR WORLD