

A CALL TO SIGNIFICANCE

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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The Bible often mentions people being called by God for a distinct purpose. The servants that He chose in the past were individually called; in turn, they responded to the “call” of God and committed themselves to do what was necessary. One thing in common about these men was their determination to forsake everything else. Similarly, all of us have been called. We need to partner with God and be the person that He designed us to be.

There were many men in the Bible who were called:

- Abraham (Genesis 22:1-9);
- The disciples Simon Peter and Andrew (Matthew 4:18-20); James and John (Matthew 4:21);
- Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10);
- The rich young man who did not give up his wealth (Matthew 19:21-29);
- Elisha (1 Kings 19:15-21).

Elisha responded to a significant call from God.

1. Elijah received God’s order to anoint Elisha to eventually replace him as Israel’s chief prophet. Elijah immediately travelled to where Elisha lived. Elijah threw his cloak on Elisha which symbolized the call to prophetic ministry and transfer of authority.
2. Elisha took a swift action to respond to God’s call. His commitment was costly. He sacrificed the very things that supplied his livelihood: he burned his equipment, thereby destroying any possibility of returning to the life he once lived; he willingly gave up his home and left his family. Today, even after we give our all to follow God, He will still test us.
3. Elisha was equipped for service. He followed in his master’s footsteps for seven (7) years. He developed a relationship that allowed him to mirror the miracles of Elijah (2 Kings 2:19-22). Elisha relentlessly followed Elijah despite the obstacles and hurdles they encountered. He clung to his master, refusing to be separated from him.

4. Elisha sought his master’s spirit. When Elijah asked Elisha what he may do for him before he would be taken from him, Elisha asked to inherit a double share of Elijah’s spirit as he becomes his successor (2 Kings 2:9). The weight of leadership would be heavy and he needed special blessing to be ready to step up (Deut 17:21).

5. Elisha kept his eyes on the prize. When a chariot of fire appeared and separated them, Elisha “saw” when Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind to heaven (2 Kings 2:11). He kept his eyes open and did not get distracted. Thus, Elisha obtained exactly what he asked for: a double portion of Elijah’s anointing. Elisha succeeded Elijah in the prophetic ministry with twice as much divine power (2 Kings 2:11-14).

We, too, must focus on the Lord and remove all distraction to be able to serve God. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus so we can walk on water, dismiss our problems and distractions.

Conclusion:

God calls us to a special service far beyond anything we could ever imagine. Embracing this call allows us to experience a life of profound significance; however, this entails great sacrifices, earnest obedience, exceptional courage and exemplary servanthood, among others. When we live out God’s call in our life, He will certainly reward us – a reward that is eternal.

Reflection:

1. How would you respond to the call of God?
2. What have you given up in exchange for service to God?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we humbly seek Your holy anointing upon the special ministry that You have called us to undertake. Let Your Holy Spirit fall afresh on us as we take on this unique and special call, for your greater honor and glory. Amen!

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