

Elisha

Desiring the Best Gifts

Objective

To understand how to ask for the best gifts and its meaning and application in our lives.

References

- ❖ 2 Kings 2
- ❖ Deuteronomy 21
- ❖ Luke 14
- ❖ 1 Kings 3

Scriptural Verse

“But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.” (1 Corinthians 12:31)

Lesson Outline

Read 2 Kings 2:1-12

- ❖ Elisha was a close companion of Elijah for more than 10 years and was his disciple.
- ❖ He asked for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. What does that mean? Deuteronomy 21:15-17 – the double portion is the portion of the eldest son and it is twice as much as the other son’s inheritance. Elisha was not asking to have double of Elijah’s spirit but to receive a larger portion of his spiritual gifts, compared to the other prophets.

Why???

1. Elisha knew that he was going to be Elijah’s successor in rebuking and prophesying in Israel. He most likely assessed the situation and studied his needs in order to be qualified for the job. Before embarking on any plan or project whether it is spiritual or not, plan first and see what it is you need to make your mission successful. Especially in the spiritual realm, many times we set high hopes for ourselves in terms of prayers and reading Holy Scripture and when we can’t keep up with things we become disappointed and depressed (Luke 14:28.).
2. Elisha asked for a spiritual blessing in order to accomplish his work. He easily could have assessed the situation and asked for a strong donkey to help him in his travels, a faithful companion, a thick winter coat, all would have been legitimate requests but he asked for the BEST gifts. King Solomon did the same (1 Kings 3:7-13). When we ask for a spiritual blessing or gift, not only does God provide for that need but for the earthly ones too (Matthew 6:33).
3. Elisha had to do his part in order to receive what he was asking for. Sometimes we ask God for truly noble things yet we don’t receive them because we are not working on receiving them. For example, someone maybe repeatedly falling in a particular sin and keeps asking God to help him without him actually trying to fight and struggle against the sin itself. God does send help but if we don’t make an effort to make use of it then it is useless to us.

4. Be bold in asking. Elisha was asking for a “hard thing” yet that didn’t stop him from asking or make him change his mind. Many times we don’t ask because we may think that we are asking for too much or doubt that God can or wants to grant us a certain request. However, we must remember that we rely on a God who is Almighty and all things are possible for Him and that He is merciful and loves to see us happy.

Conclusion

May we develop a faith and boldness like Elisha in petitioning our requests before God, especially the spiritual ones.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. How do I assess my needs and situation before starting a project or spiritual exercise?
2. What are some spiritual blessings that I should be asking for?
3. How do I deal with the loss of a friend who is affecting my relationship with God?
4. What are some things I can do to receive the spiritual blessings and gifts mentioned above?
5. What are some things that hinder us from asking God boldly?