



Matthew 7:14

Excellent Things

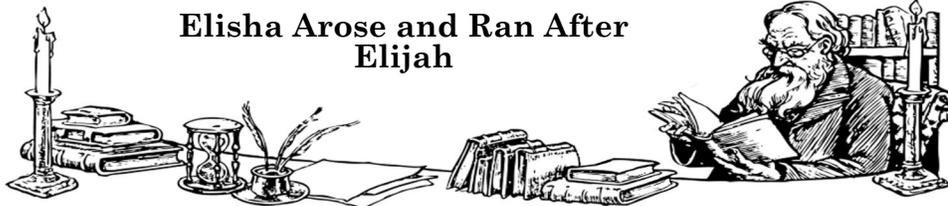
"Have not I written to thee excellent things..." Proverbs 22:20

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"GO YE THEREFORE,
AND TEACH ALL NATIONS"
MATTHEW 28:19

Elisha Arose and Ran After Elijah



Dear Friends and Family,

What a tremendous time we had at our first Narrow Way Ministries International Glory Conference in April. It was great to see many of you that were able to make it. I shared a series on "The Mantle." The videos to these teachings are on our website now at www.nwmin.org for those that missed the conference.

We are in the process of writing a book on the Revelation of Fathers and Sons (discipleship) and a section in that book will be devoted to this subject on the mantle, especially looking at the relationship between Elijah (type of father ministry) and Elisha (type of sons) and the process required to pass the mantle from one generation to another (i.e. from father to son). The mantle is a type of the anointing, substance, and inheritance that is upon a man or woman of God. To all of those that consider themselves sons and daughter of this ministry, my prayer is that you run after the calling of God like never before. This glorious inheritance is available for the taking. The will of God is that this next generation will have a double portion of all that went before them.

In this month's teaching, I would like to look at a few principles in relation to the mantle, specially Elisha's initial response when Elijah first cast his mantle upon him as found in I Kings 19:19-21. Let this word encourage you to respond like Elisha in your own life.

This first meeting between Elijah and Elisha happens right after Elijah fled from Jezebel into the wilderness out of fear for his life. Then Elijah met the Lord on mount Horeb where the Lord tells Elijah to anoint two kings (one of Syria and one of Israel) and anoint Elisha who was to ultimately replace Elijah as prophet. Then Elijah comes down off mount Horeb where we pick up the story:

"¹⁹So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. ²⁰And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? ²¹And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah and ministered unto him." (I Kings 19:19-21)

Elijah finds Elisha. Everyone knew who Elijah was. But Elijah had to go and find Elisha. I wonder if God today is looking for Elisha's. How does God find the Elisha's of the world? He uses others to do so. Here, God used Elijah to find Elisha. This is how discipleship begins. The principle rule of discipleship is one man or woman of God discipling, teaching, leading, feeding, ministering to, educating, and bringing

forth in every aspect, another man or woman to take his or her place.

Elijah knew he was going to be gone soon. In his case, it was in a fiery chariot. But for every man or woman of God out there, they need to come to terms with that their ministry does not last forever and the time will come when they will be moving on. Discipleship therefore is oh so important. It is the interaction of imparting the ministry, anointing, and inheritance of the ministry of a man or woman of God to another. In this case of Elijah and Elisha, it is the process of Elijah passing on his mantle to Elisha.

If we consider today's ministries, how many men or women of God have we known that have had tremendous ministries but sadly left no sons or daughters in the Lord to take their ministry further? How many times have we seen ministries fail once that man or woman of God has passed on? They simply did not take the time to disciple and truly impart their life to another so they in turn can take the vision further and to the next generation.

But this was not the case with Elijah. Their story is quite remarkable because Elijah's ministry carried on through Elisha, and what a ministry he had! Therefore, we can learn so much about them and apply it to our lives today. And it begins with the Elijah's of this world finding Elisha.

Elijah found Elisha plowing twelve

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yoke of oxen. Elisha was simply doing his job. Elisha was faithfully doing what life had presented to him and what God had given to him. Because Elisha had twelve yoke of oxen, this meant that Elisha and his family were wealthy. Elisha was not some poor itinerant farmer. He was an educated man who came from a blessed family. Obviously, Elisha and his family were worshippers of the Lord because he knew Elijah immediately. I wonder what was going through Elisha's heart while he spent his days plowing the fields of his family's land prior to Elijah's coming. At the very least, Elisha was a faithful man with the calling of God all over his life that needed to be discovered by Elijah.

Elisha had not known difficulty like Elijah. Elisha hadn't come up under the hardness like Elijah. Elisha was the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah (I Kings 19:16). Shaphat means "judge" and Abelmeholah means "meadow of dancing." Elisha grew up in a place called "meadow of dancing." If we compare this to Elijah's life, we find they were complete opposites. Elijah had to live and survive in the wilderness. He was constantly at odds with kings and taking stands against false prophets. We don't even know who Elijah's family was. We simply know he was "Elijah the Tishbite" (I Kings 17:1) and Tishbite means "captivity."

So the Lord sends Elijah to Elisha. Elijah finds Elisha plowing his family's oxen. And then it says, "*and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him*" (verse 19). This is the first interaction between Elijah and Elisha. This is the first interaction between Elijah, a type of father ministry, to Elisha, a type of a true son in the Lord. This relationship, I believe, is what Jesus is trying to restore especially in these last days. Malachi 4:5-6 says, "⁵*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: ⁶And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come*

and smite the earth with a curse." This is what God is after today. He wants to turn the hearts of fathers (father ministries) to their children (sons and daughters in the Lord) as well as the hearts of the children to their fathers. God wants this relationship restored in these last days.

Many believe that the mantle was the only clothing Elijah wore. So when Elijah took his mantle off and cast it upon Elisha, he could have been naked. In other words, Elijah was making a distinction between him as a frail man with weaknesses like everybody else and the mantle which he carries. He was showing Elisha who he was as well as revealing and allowing the mantle (his portion, glory, anointing, fragrance and substance in God) to be clearly seen and touch Elisha. The mantle was the covering of God that stayed with Elijah throughout his life. It was that which withstood the false prophets and a backslidden nation. It carried Elijah through drought, famine, persecution, depression, etc. and it is enough for you Elisha. "Do you want it Elisha?" This was what Elijah was intimating to Elisha when he passed by him.

Everybody knew the mantle meant the prophetic calling of God. But it doesn't just represent the anointing of Elijah. It represents the "spirit of Elijah." In II Kings 2:9-12, when Elijah finally passes on the mantle to Elisha, Elisha's prayer was, "*let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me*" (II Kings 2:9). So in understanding this relationship between father and disciple through Elijah and Elisha, it is not just filling people with Biblical information and knowledge, but it is passing along and imparting their very hearts and lives to another. It is an intimate giving of oneself as a father ministry to the disciple. The Apostle Paul, in writing to his spiritual sons and daughters in I Thessalonians, communicated this same heart, "*So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own*

souls, because ye were dear unto us" (I Thessalonians 2:8).

Once Elijah passed by Elisha and cast his mantle upon him, what was Elisha's response? "*And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah...*" (I Kings 19:20). I want to spend the rest of this chapter talking about something that has happened in the body of Christ over the last couple hundred years which was a necessary thing to happen but it also has precluded and kept from happening God's original intent. Specifically, it has been taught that we are to not follow men. This is a well-worn statement said by everybody and understandably so. It is true! We are to be following after the Lord and not men. But on the other hand, in following after the calling of God upon our lives, God requires that we follow after the man or woman of God that He places over our lives. Now in saying this, God does have standards for these people who are to be leading and guiding us. He does not want them to lead his people astray. But God uses these men and women of God that have gone before us to lead and show us the way into our inheritance. Without them, we would go astray. Everybody needs leadership.

Jesus Himself shows this pattern during his ministry. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said to two of his disciples during their first interaction, "*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*" The term "make" used by Jesus here means it is a process. They were to follow Jesus to be discipled, taught, and made into fishers of men.

We see this same principle time and time again with the Apostle Paul. In I Corinthians 11:1 he wrote to the church, "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*" We don't follow people who are not following Jesus. This is the pattern. We are to be following those, as Hebrews 13:8 says, "*whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*" Conversation here means lifestyle. It is like the widow woman's response to Elijah

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raising her son from the dead, *“Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth”* (I Kings 17:24). The Lord will make it obvious through their faith and lives who He is calling us to follow. There will be accompanying evidence that the person you are following is a man or woman of God. The Lord does not want us blindly following men. But He does want us to follow after the Jesus that is in His proven and evident leaders. It is the mantle that we go after. But that mantle will be always tied to a man or woman of God. If there is no man or woman of God, there will be no mantle ever passing by to call us forth.

We see this principle during Joshua’s day when the children of Israel were passing across Jordan into their inheritance. The children of Israel were commanded to follow after the priests in Joshua 3:3, *“And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it.”* The ark always represents the manifest presence of God. In other words, when we find true priests of God carrying the glory of God, we are to follow after.

A true priest is not somebody who just calls himself into the ministry. It is somebody publicly ordained in the body of Christ through another. Hebrews 5:4 puts it this way in describing the calling of ministries, *“And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.”* I am not talking about self-proclaimed ministries that are not submitted to anybody and an end to themselves. But this principle of discipleship applies to truly called apostles and father ministries who carry God’s mantle and manifest presence of God with them wherever they go. When God brings that ordained man or woman of God into our lives, we are to leave everything behind and go after it.

I like that it says in Joshua 3:3 that they were to *“go after it.”* In following after the priests, they were going after the manifest presence of God. Going after Jesus involves following after a man or woman of God. As we behold leadership full of the manifest glory of God, it is to be an example of who we are to be like. Are you getting this? We are not to be running after a man or woman blindly. We are running after the manifest presence of God in that man or woman of God. We are to learn from those that carry the mantle so we can have it ourselves. This is discipleship.

The Greek word for *“followers”* in I Corinthians 11:1 literally means *“to mimic, to imitate.”* In other words, Paul was basically telling his followers, *“just do what I do. Imitate me and you will be alright.”* This statement is not something anybody can just say. We must be in that position of God given authority to be able to say something like this to others. Men and women of God which have the evidence of God’s mantle, glory, and Word in their lives with signs following can say this.

We see this principle elsewhere in Scripture. Paul writes in II Thessalonians 3:6–9, *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. ⁷For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; ⁸Neither did we eat any man’s bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you. ⁹Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.”*

We are to follow the men and women of God that God has sent into our lives. We are to follow the Jesus in them as examples. And if that man or woman of God does things disorderly, evil, and not Scriptural, then don’t fol-

low them. Paul in defending his apostleship in I Corinthians writes:

“¹⁴I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. ¹⁵For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. ¹⁷For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.” (I Corinthians 4:14–17)

Paul was their father in the Lord and he was beseeching them to follow him. Instructors here in the Greek literally means *“boy teacher.”* In other words, we should be following that father ministry God has placed in our lives above others despite being instructors because they are not really fathers and don’t have the maturity or substance to take you where you need to be. Moreover, Paul was sending Timothy, his beloved son, as proof of his ways in Christ.

God’s way of discipleship is disciples following the Jesus in their spiritual fathers and mothers. This is the Scriptural pattern. Jesus’ life showed this as well. Establishing the kingdom of God is all about relationships, specially fathers to sons (or mothers to daughters, fathers to daughters, etc.) bringing forth the next move and purpose in the earth. We read time and time again how Abraham begat Isaac and Isaac begat Jacob, etc. This is the job of the five-fold ministry, *“¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints...”* (Ephesians 4:11–12) The body of Christ can never come forth without the five-fold ministry in operation doing their job leading God’s people. The eunuch in Acts 8 in responding to Philip’s question whether he understood what he was reading

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said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" (Acts 8:31).

Elijah definitely was God's chosen leader at that time. Everybody knew who Elijah was because he previously brought back an entire nation to the Lord when fire fell from heaven when he prayed. There was no question that Elijah was a man of God. He withstood false prophets to their face, was supernaturally provided for in the wilderness, prayed for rain and it rained, etc. What a mighty man of God Elijah was. And upon Elijah casting his mantle upon Elisha, Elisha did not hesitate. He left all and ran after Elijah.

When that mantle touched Elisha's life, he knew immediately what to do. Notice that Elijah didn't say anything to Elisha. All Elijah did was pass by with his mantle. That was enough for Elisha to leave everything behind. Elisha was so confident in this, that he slew his oxen and kissed his family goodbye. In other words, there was no going back. A new season had come to Elisha and he wasn't going to look back. He knew he was now moving into that which he was born for. He ran with purpose after Elijah. He knew God had called him to be Elijah's servant.

Despite Elijah's previous exploits, we know as well that Elijah had struggles. He struggled with depression. He lived a very lonely life. He felt unworthy and felt like he was the only one on the Lord's side at times. There was one point when Elijah wanted to die. James 5:17 brings out that "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are..." Here's the thing to consider about this. In bringing Elijah and Elisha together, Elisha would have learned and seen this about Elijah. In other words, God trusted that when Elisha would see these weaknesses in Elijah, Elisha wasn't going to let them hinder him in running after the mantle. So on that day, Elijah becomes Elisha's father. What an intimate, dy-

namic and glorious relationship ensues. Years later, when Elijah finally parts from Elisha and passes his mantle to Elisha, Elisha cries, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof" (II Kings 2:12). In other words, Elisha confesses Elijah was the vehicle and driver of what the Lord was doing, not only in his life but in Israel's life. Despite seeing all of Elijah's weaknesses, Elisha really saw who Elijah was and in doing so, received the double portion of Elijah's spirit that God intended him to have. This is the true fruit of discipleship.

The next point I would like to make is Elijah never put any pressure on Elisha to follow after him. Despite the Lord speaking to Elijah that Elisha was to be prophet in his room, Elijah never told Elisha that. All Elijah did was pass by Elisha and cast his mantle on him. When Elisha slew his oxen and told Elijah that we was going to kiss his father and mother goodbye, Elijah's response was, "Go back again: for what have I done to thee?" (I Kings 19:20). In other words, the response has to come from Elisha to follow after. We all must respond to the calling of God. No person can choose for us. We must decide ourselves to leave everything behind and follow after the Lord.

I remember the time in 1975 when I was deciding to quit my job and go into the ministry. I was working for a construction company and I got with my pastor Dan Duke to talk to him about it. We were sitting together at a restaurant talking and I just looked at him and asked him point blank, "Am I called to the ministry?" And he just looked back at me and returned with the same question, "Are you?" I thought at that moment that maybe he didn't understand me. So I asked him again, "Am I called to the ministry?" And he responded the same by saying, "Are you?" At that point I was getting a little frustrated at him because I thought he was making a joke or something. And then I asked him a third time and said, "No brother, I'm

trying to seriously ask you, am I called to the ministry?" And he said the same thing, "Are you?" Then it dawned on me. Nobody can tell you your calling. You have to know it for yourself and settle it once and for all because when things get difficult, we can't blame the man or woman of God. Our decision to follow on to know the Lord and follow after the mantle is our own decision as an anchor to our soul to keep pressing on no matter what. Because there will be opportunities from everywhere to quit and not finish what the Lord has begun and it is at those moments where we must have the same resolve that we began with.

So I decided that night in 1975 to pray in tongues for 30 minutes straight. I set my alarm clock to go off after 30 minutes and after that 30 minutes I fully expected God to show up. So I prayed in tongues for 30 minutes and right when the alarm went off the glory of God descended in my room. The Lord visited me and talked with me for 30 minutes more. He told me about my entire ministry life and I settled it that day once and for all that I was going to follow after God's calling for my life.

Another principle we find here is Elisha had to leave his family behind. Elisha did not use his family as an excuse. He left everything. This is never easy. He left his provision behind. This is another hurdle, especially in today's world we live in. Luke 9:57-58 says, "⁵⁷And it came to pass that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath no where to lay his head." I have taught before of the spiritual significance of this passage, but I also believe Jesus is simply saying that he didn't have a home. In other words, it wasn't going to be easy to follow him because this person would be leaving

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the comforts and provision of his family and current home.

Jesus continues in Luke 9:59-62, ⁵⁹“And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ⁶⁰Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. ⁶¹And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home in my house. ⁶²And Jesus said unto him, No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Jesus’ response seems rather harsh here. But I believe the point He is trying to make is we cannot allow our family to rob us of answering our call. If we live in a state of looking back and making decision based on what our family is doing, we will not be fit to properly respond and fulfill the will of God for our lives and be kingdom minded. Being fit for the kingdom of God is not being saved. The kingdom of God is God’s kingdom and will being manifested here on earth. If we are kingdom minded, we will make decisions based on what is best for the kingdom of God and not necessarily what is best for our lives. Therefore, we need to run after the calling like Elisha and not look back. Elisha was putting an end to his family, business, and former life. He closed every door to the past and left.

This I say to not condemn or put a trip on anybody. All I am saying is like Elisha, settle the issue today in your own life. Today right now, you have an opportunity if you haven’t already to leave every deterrent behind and follow after the calling of God. That man or woman of God carrying God’s glory and mantle that has passed by you that God has ordained for your life, what have you done about it? Have you responded yourself or are you waiting for someone else to say what will never be said because it is your decision alone to go on with the Lord.

Forget the past. The calling of God is forever before all of us. Let us echo the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, ¹³“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” The mark is Jesus and the kingdom of God. The mark is all of the people your life will positively affect and touch because of your decision today to press on forward.

So Elijah willingly burned up his former life as an offering to the Lord, said goodbye, and then the Bible says, *“Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.”* Elisha became Elijah’s servant. In today’s world we live it, servanthood seems to be a forgotten word. Everything seems to be about “me, myself, and I” instead of about the kingdom of God where we are supposed to die to ourselves for a greater good. In this age there are precious Biblical truths that are being lost. To me, discipleship is one of the greatest things that has been lost. That is why the emphasis in the last days is the hearts of the fathers turning to the children and the hearts of the children turning to the fathers. Ministry needs to return to one of its main goals and purposes and that is to reproduce themselves in sons and daughters passing on the inheritance they carry so the mantle, anointing, revelation of the Word, and vision may not only live on but be double to what the next generation carries.

When that mantle touched Elisha, everything changed in his life. From that moment on, Elisha was not the rich young man living comfortably at home, but he began following a man who had been tried, tested, and abused, in order to now simply serve him and run after the calling of God.

Despite Elisha ultimately receiving Elijah’s mantle and doing twice the

number of miracles that Elijah did, Elisha’s claim to fame was not that. He was the one known as *“Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah”* (II Kings 3:11) for the rest of his life. He was known as Elijah’s servant. This is polar opposite of so much of what we see in Christianity today where the emphasis seems to be on personal advancement and not servanthood. Christianity is all about the Lordship of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Secondly, it is about the advancement of the Kingdom of God, period. Elisha served Elijah until his catching away to be with the Lord.

In this hour that we live, my prayer is that Jesus restores this old well trodden path called discipleship to the body of Christ. Let the revelation of discipleship and the principle of fathers and sons be a fresh word from the Lord to each one of us. In these last days, may the Holy Spirit bring the children back to the fathers and the fathers down from their high thrones to find the children. My prayer is everyone reading this will respond to the calling of God upon their lives if they haven’t done so already. May the Spirit of God help us today to make a decision to arise like Elisha and run after Elijah and in doing so each one of us doing our part in advancing the Kingdom of God and glorifying Jesus.

I challenge you today, what will you do with this revelation? Those God ordained leaders in your life, do you really see what their purpose is for your life? Do you see the calling of God? Leave the past behind now. Forget all of the failed relationships and the dissappointments. Make that decision right now to arise with new purpose, vision, new hope, and expect to receive the double portion in Jesus name, Amen!

*Jesus Is Precious!
Better Son*

JESUS IS PRECIOUS!

NW Conference Videos

What a great time we had together in Jacksonville last month at our first Narrow Way International conference. For those that weren't able to make it, we have the video series available on our website (www.nwmin.org) with Brother Sam sharing on "The Mantle." It was very special time in the glory. It was great to see our pastors from Bolivia, our Jacksonville family, as well as those all around the country—you know who you are! Thank you for everyone that sacrificed to come. What an encouraging time in the Lord together! Jesus truly knitted our hearts as we move forward this year with the vision the Lord has given us!



Watch Conference Teaching Videos on "The Mantle" at www.nwmin.org



Thank you again!

Thank you for everyone that gave for our trip to Africa at the conference. We are still working out the details, but because the Lord has opened up to us to travel to not only Kenya, but Uganda as well, we are finalizing the trip for September instead of June. Also, Brother Sam will be traveling to Connecticut at the end of this month and sharing during one of the sessions at Bishop Thomas Week's (New Destiny Fellowship, Wilmington, DE) conference called "The Gathering." Please be praying for these trips.

As always, here again is our contact information and the 3 different ways to give. Please stay in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do for you. If you ever desire for Brother Sam to come and visit your area, let us know as well. Thank you for your support each and every month for Sam and Katie as they continue to live by faith and keep pressing on in their calling. Every gift, no matter how small, makes a huge difference in so many ways—more than you know! We covet your prayers as well!

- 1) Call me, Andrew Jensen, at 904-514-0409 to give using your debit or credit card
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