



Faith

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Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God
Writer: Pam Jones

“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 1, 2018

Lesson – Elijah’s Successor

Scriptures – 1 Kings 19:15-21; 1 Co. 4:15-16

Introduction to lesson

“WHO’S NEXT?” Who will be the successor or the next in line to fulfill the role and responsibility of serving in positions of church leadership? The next three months we will be studying about the exploits of Elisha, so it is only reasonable for the first lesson to be about Elisha as he began his service for the Lord as Elijah’s successor. Elisha was Elijah’s minister and he learned how to be a prophet by serving him. Everyone knew Elijah by his reputation and his integrity as a true prophet. He was the mighty prophet who prayed for the rain to stop for more than three years, called fire down from heaven, and triumphed over the false prophets of Baal; then he prayed again and God sent rain upon the land (1 Kings 17:1; 18:17-46). Elijah’s days were numbered; there would be a time for him to lay down his mantle (spiritual role) and for someone else to pick it up. God’s plan was for Elijah to anoint a successor to take his place. God chose Elisha. Who was this Elisha? He was a worker, for Elijah found him plowing in the fields. Moreover, he had an understanding of following the call of God: for when Elijah placed his mantle on him, he knew the significance of this action. He was dedicated to the calling. He was not returning to the plow because he built a fire with the yoke, cooked the oxen, and shared a farewell meal with his friends and family. Elijah was an outstanding servant of God, and Elisha gladly became his apprentice. In the same way that Elijah mentored Elisha, leaders in the church need to mentor young believers and prepare them to take the church forward in its mission. Likewise, youth must be willing to follow mentors whose outstanding Christian character and commitment is undeniable (1 Corinthians 4:15-16).

Key Verse: “So 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 mantel upon him” (1 Kings. 19:19).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Looking at the model of Elijah and Elisha, describe the person whom you (Elisha) would be persuaded to follow (Elijah) in order to develop leadership qualities.
- ✚ When Elijah cast his mantle upon Elisha, what was Elisha’s reaction? Describe Elisha’s dedication and why was his reaction so important in following Elijah.
- ✚ In 1 Corinthians 4:15 what is the difference between an instructor in Christ and a father in Christ?

Think about it:

ELISHA WAS NEXT! He was anointed to take Elijah’s place but not for several years. Only after he was a servant, helper, and prophet-in-training was he given the mantle (spiritual role). Our future leaders must be nurtured and developed for leadership. So who’s next? Get in line!

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 8, 2018

Lesson – Double Portion

Scriptures – 2 Kings 2:1-15; John 14:16-17; Acts 2:1-4

Introduction to lesson

“DOUBLE PORTION” – As Elijah’s minister, Elisha learned everything he could about his future responsibilities. When it came time for Elijah to be taken, Elisha knew he could never fulfill his responsibilities unless he received the anointing and empowerment of God. When Elijah said, “Ask what I shall do for thee,” Elisha knew he needed more of the Spirit of God in order to be the prophet God called him to be. He then asked Elijah to give him a double portion of his spirit. How badly did Elisha want the anointing of God? On the day Elijah was taken, Elisha did not leave his side. Elijah tried three times to persuade him to remain behind, but Elisha stayed close to him. The promise of receiving the double portion was conditional upon seeing Elijah taken. Persistence and anticipation brought Elisha that double portion! The fulfillment of the promise was evidenced by the mantle that fell from Elijah, and by Elisha’s miraculous parting of the Jordan with the mantle. Just like Elijah, the Spirit now rested on Elisha, using him mightily as a prophet in Israel. Today, the Spirit of God is for those who ask the Father for this gift. The baptism with the Holy Ghost was the fullness of the promise Jesus gave in John 14:16-17. How bad do you want the anointing? Jesus promised to send the Spirit, and He came on the Day of Pentecost. It is now up to us to desire, to seek, and to obtain the promise of the Father. If we truly desire a double portion, just as Elisha did, then we must draw closer to God and be persistent in our relationship with the Lord.

Key Verse: “And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me” (2 Kings 2:9).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Why did Elisha want a double portion of the Spirit?
- ✚ What did Elijah promise to Elisha, and what was the condition that had to be met for the fulfillment of this promise?
- ✚ What is the promise of God to us, and what condition must be met for the fulfillment of God’s promise? (Lu. 11:9-13)
- ✚ Why is it important to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives and in our church services?

Think about it:

♪♪ Anointing fall on me ... Let the power of the Holy Spirit fall on me, anointing fall on me.♪♪ Elisha desired the anointing and empowerment of the Spirit; and because he was willing to seek and be persistent, he received. The doctrine of the baptism with the Holy Ghost was restored in the church at the turn of the 20th century. God’s promise is still good today for those who desire and seek Him. Give me a DOUBLE PORTION Lord!

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 15, 2018

Lesson – Healing the Waters

Scriptures – 2 Kings 2:15-22; Matthew 5:13

Introduction to lesson

THE FIRST TEST - After Elijah was taken up into heaven, Elisha received the double portion of the same Spirit that was upon Elijah. Elisha went back to the Jordan River and parted the waters calling on the Lord God. Elisha stayed in Jericho while search was being made for the body of Elijah. While there, the men of the city came to Elisha for help. THE PROPHET: Elisha was God’s leading prophet in Israel; he was the go-to-person when you needed help. Who will people go to today when needing help from God? As Christians, and as members in Zion Assembly, we are representatives of Christ and his church. We must have the anointing of the Holy Ghost working in us when someone comes to us for God’s help. THE PROBLEM: the water was bad, and the ground was barren (without fruit). There was water, but it could not be used and needed healing. This healing is impossible without the anointing. THE ASKING: the men went to the prophet of God for help. The men knew the healing of the water could only be done by God and through His anointed prophet. THE WORD: Elisha said, “Bring me a new cruse (or bowl).” True anointing only comes through a new, fresh vessel. Then he said, “Put salt in it.” Salt has been a necessary means of flavoring and preserving food. In the Old Testament, sacrifices were sprinkled with salt by the priest. Also, salt is a symbol of lasting unity and peace, because it protects food from decay and preserves it unchanged. Jesus said, “Ye are the salt of the earth...” (Mt. 5:13). The anointed new vessel must be flavored with grace, love, and peace, and be zealous to protect and preserve the Word of God as true and unchanged. THE FAITH: the men demonstrated their faith by obedience to Elisha. They did as he required without question and doubting. Faith can move mountains, and bring life and victory. THE WORK: healing started at the springs of the water (i.e. at the source where the water came forth); and this is where Elisha cast the salt. Healing starts at the source of the problem; at the heart of the matter. THE HEALING came by the Word of God. Elisha said, “Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.”

Key Verse: “So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake” (2 Kg. 2:22).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What was wrong with the water? What problem did this cause for the people of Jericho? Do you see these same problems today? Explain.
- ✚ Why a NEW cruse (bowl), and why salt in the bowl?

Think about it:

God’s Word was spoken by the Spirit of the Lord, and the water source was healed! When people come asking for divine help and healing, we must have the anointing of the Holy Ghost and know God’s Word. This will enable us to declare God’s will by divine inspiration, which can bring healing to them.

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 22, 2018

Lesson – Cursed Children

Scriptures – 2 Kings 2:23-25; Ro. 13:1-7

Introduction to lesson

IT’S ALL ABOUT RESPECT. In this lesson, we will consider Elisha’s example as the proof that God requires us to respect those over us in the Lord. The next place we find Elisha is on his way to Bethel. As he was going on his way, more than 42 children mocked him showing great disrespect which was driven by the spirit of rebellion. In response, Elisha cursed them in the name of the Lord, and two female bears came out of the forest and attacked them! This action may seem harsh, but it is included in the events of Elisha’s life for our learning. The issue here was much more than children’s comments of disrespect. First, we want to take notice of the spiritual distress of Israel. The kings were exceedingly wicked men who led the nation into idolatrous worship and wicked practices. The public disregard for God’s authority in the nation was then evident in a gang of children mocking God’s prophet. Their mocking was not a light matter in God’s eyes. Next, Elisha’s curse was prompted by the Spirit of God. The spirit of rebellion acting in disrespect cannot be overlooked; it must be brought to judgment. Today in our society, we are experiencing this same outright disrespect for governing authority, and especially for the authority of church leadership. Paul also wrote to the saints about respecting and submitting to the “the higher powers” because they are ordered by God (Ro. 13:1-7). When people go against the authority that God has set in place, they bring judgment upon themselves. We are responsible to teach and demonstrate respect for governing authority, especially the authority of church leadership.

Key Verse: “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour” (Romans 13:7).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Why such a harsh curse against the children?
- ✚ Compare the disrespect then and now.
- ✚ As Christians, what life lesson can we learn in this story?

Think about it:

“REBELLION vs. RESPECT” – *Rebellion* is a heart issue, and from this rebellious heart comes forth disrespect. It resists authority and is likened to witchcraft in the Bible (1 Sa. 15:23). It brings forth judgment upon us (Ro. 13:1-2). *Respect* – It’s not always easy to come under authority and show respect. Nobody wants to be told what and how to do. But when you are in a relationship with God, he expects you to respect the people he’s placed in authority over you. You may not agree with their decisions, but you still need to show respect for the position and for the person who is in the position. It’s ALL ABOUT RESPECT and giving honor to our spiritual leaders in the church.

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“Elisha’s Exploits”

Elisha’s Exploits, Part One – April 29, 2018

Lesson – Victory in Battle

Scriptures – 2 Kings 3:4-27; 1 John 5:4-5

Introduction to lesson

“IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE” – God is able to give us victory over our enemies, even when our situation seems impossible. As we continue with the exploits of Elisha, the next event shows God’s supernatural intervention in circumstances beyond the control of men. Elisha left Bethel and went to Mount Carmel, and then on to Samaria. Jehoram, the son of Ahab, was king and reigned over Israel in Samaria. But he was very evil in the sight of the Lord. Mesh, King of Moab, rebelled against Jehoram. King Jehoram needed to stop the rebellion, but he could not do it alone. So he called upon Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, and the king of Edom joined in an alliance to fight against the Moabites. After seven days of marching toward Moab, they found themselves without water for the troops. Jehoram believed they were heading toward defeat. But Jehoshaphat believed they needed to seek the word of the Lord in order to receive an answer from God. This is where Elisha comes in; to get direction from God, they needed a prophet to give the Word of God. The Lord told them to do something strange; dig ditches all over the valley. Before victory comes, there must be obedience and faith in God’s Word. Not only would they get victory in obtaining water without wind or rain, but God also promised victory over their enemies. Victory came just as God said it would. Although the Moabites tried to fight, it was pointless. They were defeated! When we can do nothing to fix the overwhelming circumstances in our lives, we should turn to God for direction. Through obedience and faith in God’s Word, we too can experience a miraculous victory (1 John 5:4-5).

Key Verse: “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What was the instruction from the Lord concerning their problem?
- ✚ Why do you believe the Lord gave such strange instructions?
- ✚ How much did faith and obedience play a part in the victory?
- ✚ What can we do when we face overwhelming circumstances in our lives?

Think about it:

God does the impossible for us because God wants us to be victorious. He does not want us to be a defeated people. When our situation is bigger than us, that’s when the Lord can show us nothing is impossible with Him! Our victory comes through faith in Jesus Christ and through obedience to God’s Word.

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