



Ascension of Elijah

Burn Your Bridges Behind You!

By James Dunn

THERE WAS A MAN by the name of Elijah. He was looking for a helper, and the one he found was Elisha. Elijah and Elisha! Elijah had power with God. He could close up the heavens. He could destroy his enemies with fire. He could raise the dead. He did those great things because God had given him a special anointing.

Yet Elijah was a man like you and I. He once let Jezebel run him off into the woods, and almost scare him to death. Sometimes when we think we are strong, we are not so strong. When a man thinketh he standeth, let him take heed lest he fall. The closer we get to God, the more we are going to need God. We run into a lot of self-righteous people in this world today. They can do no wrong, they can see no evil in themselves. They have a sanctimonious religion.

If we feel we have everything, how can God give us anything more? Elijah knew that he was a man and that he had to have daily communion with God. He knew that his strength came from above. Elijah knew he needed the help of others. One day he saw Elisha plowing in the field. He threw his mantle on Elisha. What did Elisha answer? Did he say, "You will have to wait until my father starts drawing his social security, then I will go with you?"

No! Elisha didn't wait. He started burning the bridges behind him. He slew the oxen and burned his plow and said, "All right, let's go. Let the dead bury the dead. I am going to follow you." When you make up your mind and heart that you are going to burn all the bridges behind you, that you will throw away all your crutches and follow God, regardless of what the cost may be, then God is going to use you. God is not going to give His gifts and a double portion of His Spirit to spineless individuals who will listen to everything that comes by.

WE MUST FOLLOW CHRIST AS ELISHA FOLLOWED ELIJAH

Elijah was a type of prophecy. When you start following Christ you can't be looking back to see if everything is all right for a retreat. You can't be swaying from this side to the other. You have got to have one purpose in mind, and that is to follow Jesus every step of the way.

Elijah knew that God was going to take him up to Heaven. The Lord got to loving Elijah so much that He would not let him remain any longer on the earth. God took him just as he took Enoch. You can't find a bone or a piece of dust from their bodies, because they didn't leave any here.

Enoch, like Elijah, walked and talked with God. His thoughts were on God. His heart was moved for God. His lips praised God. One day God said, "Come up here son." He hardly knew when his feet left the ground. He walked right into the arms of Almighty God! This is what is going to happen to us one of these days. Hallelujah! We will feel our body change. And in the twinkling of an eye we are going to meet Him in the air!

The day came when Elijah said to Elisha, "I am going to leave you pretty soon. You have been a faithful servant. What request do you ask of me before I leave?" What did Elisha say? Did he say, "Elijah, I tell you. I have travelled a long hard road with you. Things have been tough; We have

really had a rough time; I think I have had enough; I want that big farm over there next to Jericho?" Or did he say, "Elijah I like business. There is a big supermarket over here in the next town. Just give me that; I will retire." No, he didn't say any of those things. He looked at Elijah and said, "I want a double portion of the Spirit that you have! I want twice as much as you have!" And it is recorded that Elisha did twice as many miracles as Elijah.

Elijah looked at Elisha astonished. He said, "Man, you have asked a hard thing. But if you see me when I go, you shall have it." There was a hinge to that. "If you see me." That is just the same as saying, "If you are ready when Jesus comes, you are going to go." From that moment Elijah began to try Elisha. He was going to see what kind of a fellow he was that wanted the double portion of his spirit. He said, "I have some business over here, that I have to clear up because I don't want to leave anything undone. You wait here and I will be back in a little bit." But Elisha said, "Oh no you don't do that. I am going to stick closer to you than a brother. In fact when they see us walking down the road it will look like one man walking." That is the way you have to walk with Jesus. You can't be dragging back and sitting under a shade tree when things get hot. Some folks when the first little bit of persecution comes, are ready to quit. It is not those that start with a big shout, but those who finish with a shout.

Elijah couldn't shake Elisha anywhere. They went on down to the river. I was at that Jordan river a couple of years ago. When they got to the river Elijah just took his mantle off and rolled it up and smote the water. And the water rolled back, and they went across on dry land! God can do anything. He can make iron float on water. God has done these things and He will continue to do them.

Men accept the engineering feats of science. They can cut big slabs of steel with air, as they would cut butter. They can x-ray it and see hidden flaws on the inside. They can shoot missiles to the moon. But they don't believe that God Almighty can heal a man's body, that He made in the beginning, when he made Adam and Eve.

They went across the Jordan. They hadn't got far on the other side when something happened. Down came the chariot. And as the chariot of Israel swept him away, Elijah remembered his promise. He threw his mantle down and Elisha picked it up. The first thing he did was to go back to the river and say, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" The sons of the prophets saw him and said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest upon Elisha."

But they didn't have faith to believe that God had taken Elijah to Heaven. They sent out messengers to search for him in the desert or in a tree somewhere. There will be some preachers who are going to be left here to pastor their flocks after Jesus comes. They will have a lot of explaining to do. They will try to explain the rapture away like the sons of the prophets did. Or, they will say that the Flying Saucers got them. They will try to explain the wonderful thing away. But they will have to explain it to someone else, for I am not going to be here. I am going to be with Jesus!