



A legacy that counts!

(PART 1 of 2)

January 14, 2019

2 KINGS 2:8-9 NKJV – (8) Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled *it* up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. (9) And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”

Whether it's a high school, college competition or the Olympics, audiences get excited watching athletes compete in a relay race. The key point of the relay is the passing of the baton. No matter how fast the runners are, if one of them drops the baton, the team loses the race.

Leaving a legacy to the people in our life is a lot like passing the baton. Legacy is about transfer, and what we leave behind can help someone else go further than we did. What kind of legacy are you and I leaving behind? (3 legacies) Developing and passing on a true spiritual legacy doesn't just happen. Like Elijah passing on the prophet's mantle to Elisha, we can share a Christian legacy. Think about the price Jesus paid to leave His legacy. Because of His death and resurrection, you and I have the privilege and duty to pass this legacy on to everyone around us.

So what does it mean to leave a legacy? Many of us think of our children and grandchildren, and the notion of leaving them an inheritance. Others may think of building a business, or influencing others through society.

Our legacy is connected to the stewardship of our lives—how we order our life under God so that it is fruitful and productive. Elijah was a man who feared the Lord, so he arranged his life to follow after God—to walk in His ways. Elisha observed this and wanted this same legacy. However, our legacy is not just about our fruitfulness, but the flourishing of our families. The way that we lead our families and our discipleship of those under our care is a clear indication of whether we fear the Lord. Moreover, leaving a legacy means allowing God to use our gifts to impact the children, church and our communities for His glory. God's mission is not just to bless us, but to use us in the advancement of His kingdom.

So again, I ask, what sort of Spiritual inheritance are we leaving to others? How do we invest in people in order to pass along what God has entrusted to us? First, we must understand, we cannot give away what we don't have. Therefore, do you and I or we, have a spiritual treasure to pass along to the next generation? Elisha saw Elijah's spiritual depth and connection with God; he longed to have the same thing.

Next week we will look at the plan, provision and purpose that God made for Elisha through the Prophet Elijah.

SCRIPTURE READING: **PROVERBS 13:22**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If you are living outside God's purpose, you are living outside God's power.