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When All You've Got is What You Left Behind

April 2, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: 2 KINGS 13:20-21

Do you live giving thought to what you are leaving behind? Would how you live still give life even after you've passed away? These may be tough questions to ask, but God's life-giving grace can help!



NOTES

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Romans 10:17

The Bible is like a time machine you can enter to find your way back to the future God has for you in Christ.

When All You’ve Got is What You Left Behind

“Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders. So they threw the man’s body into Elisha’s tomb. When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet!”

2 Kings 13:20-21

When All You’ve Got is What You Left Behind – is it life-giving?

What you’re doing right now - how you live your life everyday - is already impacting your after-life.

Live giving thought to what you are leaving behind.

- Your Stuff
You can’t take it with you. Is it giving life?
- Your Memorial Service
It’s a gift of love to have arrangements made before you leave.
- Your Story
Will how you live still give life even after you’ve passed away?

Elisha had a story God was writing in his life that was different from Elijah’s. Your story will be unique, too.

The name Elisha means “*God is salvation,*” and his ministry was from God's immeasurably more double portion of Spirit.



God doesn't want us all doing the same things in the same way.

What's your story? Who is God calling you to be?

"I gotta be me!"

God knows the desire of your heart. He wants to lead you to find its fulfillment in Him.

"We do not dare classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

2 Corinthians 10:12

Live your calling from God and you'll leave a life-giving legacy.

The Book of Revelation tells us when we live out of the story God has for us in Christ, we will find power to even overcome the devil.

"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

Revelation 12:11

Having a testimony is you living in the story of God's forgiveness and freedom.

God's amazing life-giving grace is flowing through you, your spiritual gifts, your acts of service, and your expression of God's character through your vocation.

"Ask...Seek...Knock and the door will be opened for you."

Matthew 7:7

We stand in the middle of God-sized visions now because of people who, though no longer with us in body, planted seeds that are now bearing fruit.

Even though Elisha spent his life helping his neighbors, trying to help his nation and even loving his enemies - evil rulers avoided him and complacent people neglected him.

King Jehoash is still fighting Aram, the Syrians that have oppressed Israel for decades. He came to Elisha to get some help.

"He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam, son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he continued in them."



2 Kings 13:11

“My Father! My Father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

2 Kings 13:14

The king could be referring to Elijah being taken up into heaven or helping Elisha see that God’s army surrounding them was greater than the enemy’s forces.

“The Lord’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!”

2 Kings 13:17

“You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times.”

2 Kings 13:19

The man of God has not lost his focus even though he’s losing his health.

The King, instead of learning from the past, keeps repeating its mistakes in the present.

The King is asking for too little provision with too little passion.

God’s still willing to give victory but meets us at our point of passion.

The state of the nation: half-hearted devotion with a foot in two worlds.

All for God on Sunday, and living for yourself on Monday.

“They are double-minded, unstable in all their ways.”

James 1:8

The King aimed too low and quit too soon.

How men and nations go down: instead of seeking the double portion that leads to victory, they live the double-standard that brings defeat.

What story are you living?

God’s grace is greater than all our sin. His mercy is bigger than all our mistakes. We find it when we come in seeking with all our hearts.

When All You’ve Got is What You Left Behind – will it be life-giving?



God has never lost his focus of wanting to put victory in our hands.

“If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

Luke 11:13

Step into God’s story for your life and watch him write it into the lives of others.

How can you live your best life in God’s story?

DON’T

Be double-minded
Neglect God’s directions
Settle for less than double-portion living
Live comparing yourself with others
Show up half-way

DO

Seek first the kingdom of God
Follow his Word with his people
Ask God to lead you to victory
Live God’s story for you
Show up with full passion.

Live your calling from God and you will leave a life-giving legacy.

