

A double portion

Introduction

Series

- Taking a few weeks to look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday
- Last week - we looked at the promise of the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus came in part to give us the Spirit
 - He lived as an example of Spirit empowered ministry
 - His Spirit reveals Jesus to us, gives us power to love and witness

This week

- Old Testament story to look at additional principles
- Illustrates some of the steps for more of the Spirit

Text

- Use as my text a request Elisha makes of Elijah
- See **2 Ki 2:9** (ESV) (9) *When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me."*

Came from a place of ministry

- His request is better understood when you see his role
- A little background is called for to bring us to this point

God had chosen him to carry on the work of Elijah

See instructions to Elijah

- At the end of Elijah's ministry
- **1 Ki 19:16-17** (ESV) (16) *And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. (17) And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.*
- He would take Elijah's place

See his call

- **1 Ki 19:19** (ESV) (19) *So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.*
- Elisha was working in the field - Elijah places his cloak on his shoulders!

He'd responded to the call

- **1 Ki 19:20-21** (ESV) (20) *And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"* (21) *And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.*
- Elisha immediately responds - turning from the old way he lived to follow and serve Elijah

He'd been faithful in "little"

- From that moment until the point of our text, he was Elijah's servant
- See **2 Ki 3:11** (ESV) (11) *And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, through whom we may inquire of the LORD?" Then one of the king of Israel's servants answered, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah."*
- He saw Elijah's ministry, but his own was simply to serve!
- See the day of Elijah's departure - he's followed him from place to place waiting on him.
- But he was faithful!
- See this last day: **2 Ki 2:1-7** (ESV) (1) *Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. (2) And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. (3) And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." (4) Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. (5) The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." (6) Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. (7) Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood*

at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

- Someone has calculate ~25 miles
- See how Elijah tries to get him to stop - but the servant heart stays with his master
- See how he knew this would be his last day, and instead of setting up his own ministry, he completed his current ministry
- So much has been written about this journey, but to me it illustrates his faithfulness to his calling

Desired what Elijah had

Let's consider the desire behind the request

He seen the ministry of Elijah

- Even coming late in the game, he'd
 - Heard Elijah's prophecies
 - Seen the power of God - eg. Fire from heaven
- He'd felt the anointing in that cloak
- Watched the ministry to the *company of prophets*

He knew he needed the same Spirit

- Knowing he was to assume the position occupied by Elijah - he wanted the Spirit that filled Elijah
- See again our text and Elijah's response [2 Ki 2:9-10](#) (ESV) (9) *When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." (10) And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so."*
- **Note** Ministry by the Spirit is a hard thing

He fulfilled the requirement

- See [2 Ki 2:11-12](#) (ESV) (11) *And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. (12) And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.*
- He was there - and God took him
- See v12 - *He saw it* - that was what was required

God's provision

Took the first step by faith

- See **2 Ki 2:13-14** (ESV) (13) *And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. (14) Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.*
- See **2 Ki 2:8** (ESV) (8) *Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.*
- He'd seen Elijah do this
- He'd been promised the Spirit
- Struck out in faith

Assumes leadership

- Returns and assumes the leadership role of Elijah
- See **2 Ki 2:15** (ESV) (15) *Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.*

Ministry by the power

- Twice the number of miracles
- One even posthumously
- See **2 Ki 13:20-21** (ESV) (20) *So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. (21) And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.*
- The early part of 2nd Kings is filled with the ministry and prophecy of Elisha who fulfilled the ministry God had for him

Application/Comments

On vs. in

- See our text - a double portion of your Spirit on me
- As we talked last week on vs. in - Jesus came to fill us with the Spirit

Power for ministry

- The Spirit comes to enable/empower us to serve. To minister
- We are to step into the role of Jesus - in much the same way
- **Ask** Are we doing what God has called us to do? (Elisha left everything to step into the role of ministry)
- **Ask** Are we willing to do the *humble* things.
- **Ask** Are we faithfully serving the Lord right now.

Do we want/need more

- Elisha saw he'd need more
- Do we recognize our need?
- Are we determined to have more?
- Seeking the power of the Spirit to do the work of Jesus and live the life of Jesus here and now!

#Sermons/Preached

#Sermons/HolySpirit