

September 4, 2011

Willow Park South
Small Group Questions

“Elijah: Part 5”

1 Kings 19:15-21

2 Kings 2:6-14

- Please read 1 Kings 19:15-21 & 2 Kings 2:6-14 together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

In 1 Kings 19:19, we read that Elisha “was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth.” This was a sign of wealth and authority and showed that Elisha had great success. But Elijah cast his cloak on Elisha, which represented a different calling on Elisha’s life: a life of humble service to God.

What was Elisha’s response when he received this calling? (1 Kings 19:21)

- Elisha sacrificed his wealth and status to follow God’s call for him to humbly assist Elijah.

What do you think compelled Elisha to sacrifice all that he had worked for in his life?

If God called you to sacrifice all that you had worked for, what would you miss the most?

In what way does God call us to sacrifice our own desires and pursuits? What does He call us to pursuit instead?

God’s call on Elisha’s life was twofold: a call to ‘be’ and a call to ‘do’. While he had a higher calling to be a prophet, our calling is similar in that we are called to be like Jesus, a higher calling of holiness.

Why is it impossible to become more like Christ by solely working hard at it?

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** (ESV) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

If it is by the grace of God that we become more like Jesus and not of our own doing, then do we have any responsibility in this aspect of God’s call?

- Yes, we have the responsibility to always keep God’s grace in mind and allow it to sink into our lives so that it changes us.

What can we do practically to have a greater understanding and passion for God’s grace?

- Read your Bible, Pray, & surround yourself with a community who will encourage your faith.

The power of God's calling and His grace comes from Christ's death on the cross. As Jesus lived a perfect life, we are called to follow His example by His grace. As Jesus died on the cross His righteous life is given to us, our sins are forgiven and His perfection is imputed to us. As Christ was resurrected three days later, we are called to tell others about how because of Jesus' death, we will one day be resurrected also to live glorified with Christ forever.

Prayer and Reflection:

Have you felt the call to be like Christ?

Do you have a passion to tell others about Jesus' sacrifice for us?

Pray that God would reveal His grace in fresh way to you so that you might have an ignited calling and passion for His glory.