

1 Kings 19:15-21

"The Call of God"

15 Then the Lord said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. 17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18 Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."
19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please 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 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant."

The Call of God

- Moses **Exodus chapter 3:4-10**

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." **4** So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground." **6** Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. **7** And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their [a]sorrows. **8** So I

have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. **9** Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. **10** Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

- Abraham **Genesis chapter 12:1-9**

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. **2** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **4** So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram *was* seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

- Gideon **Judges chapter 6:11**

11 Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which *was* in Ophrah, which *belonged* to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide *it* from the Midianites. **12** And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!" **13** Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." **14** Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

- David **Psalm chapter 78**

He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; 71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance.
72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

- Isaiah **chapter 6:1-9**

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. **2** Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!" **4** And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** So I said: "Woe

is me, for I am [a]undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." **6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth *with it,* and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin [b]purged." **8** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here *am* I! Send me." **9** And He said, "Go, and tell this people:

- Amos **chapter 7:12-16**

10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to [g]bear all his words. **11** For thus Amos has said: 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, And Israel shall surely be led away captive From their own land.' " **12** Then Amaziah said to Amos: "Go, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread, And there prophesy. **13** But never again prophesy at Bethel, For it *is* the king's [h]sanctuary, And it *is* the royal [i]residence." **14** Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "I *was* no prophet, Nor *was* I a son of a prophet, But I *was* a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit. **15** Then the LORD took me [j]as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.' **16** Now therefore, hear the word of the LORD: You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, And do not [k]spout against the house of Isaac.' **17** "Therefore thus says the LORD:

- Saul **Acts chapter 9:3-6**

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. **4** Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" **5** And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. [a]It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads." **6** So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." **7** And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. **8** Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. **9** And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

- Ron **something more in mind than to give me a ticket to heaven!**

When someone calls out your name! NFL draft

Elisha means "God is salvation." Elijah (My God is Jehovah) should have been encouraged by this word, for it would put an end to Ahab and Jezebel which he had fought for on Mount Carmel, and it would also guarantee him a successor to carry on his ministry.

"I was not good enough for man, And so was given to God."

Moody (often called "God's anointed uneducated man" or "the unlearned evangelist"

God used many men who never attended seminary, including the "Prince of Preachers," C H Spurgeon (A W Tozer, Leonard Ravenhill, Billy Sunday, William Booth, George Muller, John Bunyan, etc).

You've heard the acrostic that God looks for "F.A.T." men,

Faithful
Available
Teachable

Many of the most powerful preachers in history were self-taught, Spirit-led, and deeply committed to God's Word.

God does not call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

My identity is not from what I do, but my identity is from whose I am!

☐ 1. The Perception of the Call

came suddenly, although Elisha's preparation may have been going on for several years. It came unmistakably.

Ezekiel 40:4

Philippians 2:12, 13 1:6

19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.

Preaching- Jonah 3:2; Acts 15:35; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:7; Titus 1:3

Ill. Most important thing in life- HEARING GOD



It is imperative to make the preaching of the Word important in your life. YOUR PARTICULAR PASTORS.

☐ 2. The Pursuing of the Call

2 Thessalonians 1:11- 11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power: 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please 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?"

This reminds me of a similar story in the NT where Jesus told someone to follow him. When he asked to go home to bury his father, Jesus basically said no. Why didn't Elijah say the same thing?

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I asked Jordan to check it out to give us his take on the NT story in Luke 9:57-62

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he

said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." [60] Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." [61] And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." [62] But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

If you have been called to serve God, your direction should only be forward!

When Jesus said, "Follow me", he meant Right now!

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The call came to Elisha in the form of an offer instead of a command. An offer which he instantly accepted.

How about now? Ill. Diet starting Monday.

☐ 3. The preparation of the Call

21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant (ministered unto him- KJV)."

Ill. Rick & Sandy- AWANA

The Cost of Discipleship

Ill. Me leaving my job

Elisha will spend ten years under the tutelage of Elijah. Elisha will serve the Lord at least 64 years.

Ill. Fear of going back to plumbing

Ill. Left my job and told I would be back within a couple of months.

Many people are surprised to find that the Christian life is not a playground, but a battleground. The day that you decide to follow Jesus Christ, you begin to face

opposition from the devil. He doesn't want you to grow spiritually. He doesn't to you to move forward. So, he will use every trick up his sleeve to try and pull you back.
We must recognize that to follow Christ means there is a price to pay. We may lose some friends. We may have to give up a few things. It may be difficult at times. But certainly, it is worth it.

I have decided to follow Jesus- no turning back!

Make a commitment to follow Jesus.

- ✓ **In your church** **Mrs. Flanders- 30 years or more!!!! Now my bride!!!!!**

Ill. Camp Maranatha- Hank

Phrase "I Am All In"

"I am all in" means you are fully committed, dedicated, or willing to give everything you have to a task, goal, or situation

Why don't you join the church and become accountable to leadership?

99 percent of people who are members of the church make the decision to leave with no pastoral counsel!

- ✓ **In your marriage**

STOP BEING WISHY WASHY! A double minded man in unstable in all his ways.

If it doesn't work out, I can always go back to what I was doing??

Numbers 14: That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Luke 9:23- Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Many people interpret the "cross" to be taken up as some burden they must carry in their lives: a strained relationship, a thankless job, a physical illness, etc. With self-pitying pride, they look at their difficulty and say, "That's my cross I have to carry." Such an idea is not what Jesus meant when He said, "Take up your cross and follow Me."

When a person carried a cross in Jesus' day, no one thought of it as a persistent annoyance or symbolic burden. To a person in the first century, the cross meant one thing and one thing only: death by crucifixion. To carry a cross was to face the most painful and humiliating means of death human beings could develop.

Two thousand years later, Christians view the cross as a cherished symbol of atonement, forgiveness, grace, and love. But in Jesus' day the cross represented a torturous death. The Romans forced convicted criminals to carry their own crosses to the place of crucifixion (see John 19:17). Bearing a cross meant one was about to die, and that one would face ridicule and disgrace along the way.

Therefore, Jesus' command to "take up your cross and follow Me" is a call to self-abasement and self-sacrifice. One must be willing to die in order to follow Jesus. Dying to self is an absolute surrender to God.

Jesus' statement that following Him requires taking up a cross made people think twice about their motivations and level of commitment.

Commitment to Christ means taking up your cross daily, giving up your hopes, dreams, possessions, and even your very life if need be for the cause of Christ. Only if you willingly take up your cross may you be called His disciple (Luke 14:27). The reward is worth the price. Remember that, as Jesus called His disciples to "take up your cross and follow Me," He, too, bore a cross. Our Lord led the way.

It's not a matter of living a comfortable life!

- **something more in mind than to give me a ticket to heaven!**

When someone calls out your name!

A PERSONAL SEPARATION AND SERVICE. "Then he arose and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him" (1 Kings 19:21). As a vessel he has been cleansed, and made meet for the Master's use. He forsook all and followed Him. He began his great life's work in a very humble fashion, by "pouring water in the hands of Elijah" (2 Kings 3:11). He sought not great things for himself, but only to please and help his Master. Oh, that the words of our gracious Master might be true in our lips when face to face with the needs of men! "I am among you as he that serveth." "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it" (John 2:5).