

Chapter 1

The Calling

Our Journey begins when Word of the Lord came to Elijah saying, go and show thyself to Ahab;

1Kings Chapter 18:17-40: Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals.

"Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

A single true prophet of God has more wisdom than four hundred and fifty false Prophets. His wisdom comes from God.

"Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

"Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he

said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.

"Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

The Bible Tells us that 450 Prophets of Baal were slain after the one and only true God had consumed the sacrifice on Mt. Carmel.

1KI 19:1-16

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat

down under a Juniper tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

Elijah flees to the wilderness and gets under a juniper tree, and has his pity party. Woe is me, I am the only one left, just take my life I've had enough. Then God sent an angel to Elijah and he told him to get up and eat - he is to travel to Horeb where the Lord appeared to him in a gentle whisper. We always want and look for the big announcement from God, but, God usually shows up in the small and if we are not careful we will miss Him.

Then as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."

So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in

the earthquake;

and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

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.

"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.

Here God is instructing Elijah to anoint Elisha to be prophet in his place.

God is Calling Elisha and He is using Elijah to make that call. God has a purpose for Elisha.

Elijah will take Elisha on a journey to the anointing where he will learn and experience each step of the journey.

It was there also that Elijah was knocked off of his pity pot - God informs him that he is not the only one left who still serves God.

1 Ki: 19:18-19

"Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

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.

By casting his mantle upon Elisha, the call to the anointing had been made.

1KI 19:20 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?"

Elijah was saying: "Sure you go back to them if you want to, but do you really understand what I have just done to you? Do you understand that this is a calling from God Himself?"

1KI 19:21 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.

At that point, Elisha realized that what was being offered to him was more valuable than anything that this world had to offer. When that mantle hit him he felt something he had never felt before. He knew that he had to make a decision. He felt the pull of that mantle (anointing) so strongly that he was now willing to give up everything this world had to offer and run for the mantle no matter what it took. Even if it meant burning every thing he had and leaving it behind.

Many of us have received this call to the anointing. God says – the things I have in store for you are great. He desires to reveal His greatness to us. He seeks those who are willing at all costs to take the journey. Not to receive something to make you great, but to glorify Him.

We read about others in the scripture who immediately left all to follow in the journey: Abraham, Paul.

Now, it is your turn. Those who will, God will speak to your hearts. He will tell you what must be laid down, burned in order to attain the prize – Which is Him. Sacrifice is hard but just ask Jesus about sacrifice and what awaits on the other side – there is rejoicing.

Let's follow Jesus through this journey.

When the call (mantle) is placed upon you, at that point, you don't really realize what it entails. You don't really realize all that you will have to leave. It requires you to leave all.

You will have to leave your old ways.

You will have to leave your old habits.

You will have to leave all those things that hold you back and tie you down.

You will have to leave your burdens.

You will have to leave the yokes that bind and hinder you in your walk with the lord.

These must be left behind never to be returned to. They must be stripped away from your life. You must be willing to lay them all down, to burn them, completely destroy them as Elisha did. Get rid of them so they will not be there trying to pull you back.

You must not look back. Follow the lord at all costs to be truly transformed.

So what are some of these things that must be stripped from our lives?

1. Vanity – this leads to pride. God looks at the heart. It's what is

inside the heart that He is concerned with, not your looks or your outer beauty. He is the one that makes the heart beautiful.

- 2. Identity** – do you get caught up in the identity crisis? Your identity does not come from man, it comes from the Lord. Do not look to man for acceptance, look to God. You are not to be a man pleaser, but a God pleaser.

Galatians 1:10: For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

– whom shall you fear.....He has chosen you, that should be enough. You do not have to prove yourself.

- 3. Doubt** – do you doubt who the Lord says you are? Do you doubt you have been called by God? In and of yourself you can do nothing, but in Christ you can and will accomplish all He has created you to do, if you follow Him at all costs. God uses broken vessels.***

He puts them back together – better because they have been restored to what originally they were intended. You will be used mightily when you are fully yielded to him.

- 4. Self-reliance** – you do not have to do anything – He has done it all. He will accomplish through you what He intends. He will tell you what to say, when to say it and where to go.....just trust and follow him.

- 5. Worry** – do not worry. If He has said it.....He will do it.

These are just a few.....what is in your life that needs to be burned?

What do you need to leave behind?

He tells us these things, not to condemn us, but to free us.

Also, do not allow the world and the things of the world to consume you.....

1 John 2:15-17: For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust

of the eyes, and the pride of life-is not of the Father but is of the world.
And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will
of God abides forever.

Those who belong to the Lord must be separate. You must walk so very
closely with Him. We are called to be holy as He is holy.

1 Peter 1:16:for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy”.

As his vessel – be yielded completely.

Also, on this journey, you cannot drop the mantle that has been placed
upon you. You are in a journey, It will require a lot.

So you are willing to leave everything and follow at all costs. You are on
the journey of a lifetime. Your first stop.....Gilgal!!!!