

CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

LEAVING A LEGACY THAT LASTS

2 KINGS 2:11-15

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Introduction: Last time we began looking at Elijah's seventh secret for living an extraordinary life: "Live With The End In View." Significant people understand that the best use of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.

Leaving a legacy that lasts requires that we embrace the right perspective, the right principle, and the right priority.

I. **The Right Perspective: Take the Long View of Your Life**

II. **The Right Principle: God Measures Significance by Faithfulness, Not by Success** (1 Corinthians 4:2)

1 Corinthians 4:2 "...It is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (ESV)

A. **Faithfulness versus Success** (2 Kings 2:9)

2 Kings 2:9 "Now it came about when they had crossed over [the Jordan] that Elijah said to Elisha, 'Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you.' And Elisha said, 'Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.'"

B. **Learning to Sweat the "Small Stuff"** (Luke 16:10-11)

Luke 16:10-11 ¹⁰ "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹ If therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon [wealth], who will entrust the true riches to you?"

1. **Small things -- when added together -- become big things.**
2. **God uses small assignments as tests for bigger assignments.**

III. **The Right Priority: People**

A. **Encourage Other People** (2 Kings 2:3, 5)

2 Kings 2:3, 5 ³ “Then the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, ‘Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; be still.’ ⁵ And the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, ‘Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?’ And he answered, ‘yes, I know; be still.’”

B. **Mentor Other People** (1 Kings 19:19; 2 Timothy 2:2)

1. **The Mentor Must Take the Initiative**

1 Kings 19:19b “And Elijah went over to him [Elisha] and threw his cloak across his shoulders and walked away.” (NLT)

2. **The Mentor Must be Available**

1 Kings 19:21b “Then he [Elisha] went with Elijah as his assistant.” (NLT)

3. **The Mentor Must Serve As a Model of Godliness**

2 Timothy 2:2 “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men [and women] who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Kings 2:11-15 ¹¹ “Then it came about as they were going along and talking, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it and cried out, ‘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. ¹³ He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and struck the waters and said, ‘Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?’ And when he also had struck the waters, they were divided here and there; and Elisha crossed over. ¹⁵ Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho opposite him saw him, they said, ‘The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.’ And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him.”

Conclusion