

1 KINGS 19:19-21 "WEAR YOUR MANTLE"

The Lord pities us as we dwell in our caves

Psalm 103:8–14

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

9 He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**13 As a father pities his children,
So the LORD pities those who fear Him.**

**14 For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.**

Jesus loves to pick us up, dust us off, and get us going again – but in His direction!

- **One of the best cures for depression is to just get busy serving the Lord again.**

So, the Lord gave Elijah 3 commands to accomplish by getting out of his cave:

1 Kings 19:15–16

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.

- 1. Anoint Hazael as king over Syria**
- 2. Anoint Jehu as king over Israel**
- 3. Anoint Elisha as prophet in your place**

- **Elijah would not do them in the order God gave him**
 - **He would also not even accomplish tasks 1 & 2**
 - **Do we have the right to pick and choose what commands the Lord gives us?**

- In fact – Elijah goes back north in the wrong direction, to the wrong place, at the wrong time!
- Elisha would do what Elijah failed to do:
 - **We then find Elisha at Damascus**, to carry out the command given to his master to anoint Hazael king over Syria (2 Kings 8:7–15); thereafter he directs one of the sons of the prophets to anoint Jehu, the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Israel, instead of Ahab. Thus the three commands given to Elijah (9:1–10) were at length carried out. ¹

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.

- Elisha must have been a part of a very wealthy family
- 12 yoke of oxen – unreachable by many typical family farmers.



- Throwing a prophet's **cloak around** a person symbolized the passing of the power and authority of the office to that individual. ²
- **All Christians** have been given a unique priesthood through the cross:

¹ M. G. Easton, *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

² Thomas L. Constable, "1 Kings," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 529.

1 Peter 2:9–10

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- All Christians are blessed a Spiritual gifting through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

1 Peter 4:10–11

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Every Christian has the responsibility to use that gifting and represent Christ wherever He places you.

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

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?”

- **19:20 (NLT)** Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!”
Elijah replied, **“Go on back and kiss your parents goodbye, but think about what I have done to you.”**³
- Think how difficult it must have been for Elisha and his parents
- To leave a wealthy family and commit yourself to the poverty of ministry.
 - No record of Elisha ever going home from that point on in his life.

Matthew 19:21–24

³ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), 1 Ki 19:20.

21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

- Elisha accepted the call thus given (about four years before the death of Ahab), and **for some seven or eight years became the close attendant on Elijah** till he was parted from him and taken up into heaven. During all these years we hear nothing of Elisha except in connection with the closing scenes of Elijah’s life. ⁴

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.

- Total commitment to God’s plan
- Cooking his own oxen pair using the wood from his own plow
- He would only ever be plowing the fields of the Lord

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.**”

⁴ M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).