

The Book Of 1 Kings.

Wednesday Noon Bible Study
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Pastor Henry Wallace

Lesson 58 - The Passing Of The Mantle

Some years ago, while I was studying the Book of Acts, the commentator made the following observation which I have shared on many occasions. He said, "***We all inherit work from our predecessor, and leave work to our successor***". That's exactly what's happening here in **1 Kings 19:19**.

1st Point A Principle On How God Chooses A Servant (1 Kings 19:19)

- In this verse we read **...who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen...**
- Elisha, who will succeed Elijah, is busy working.
- When Elijah found Elisha, he was busy plowing in the field.
- One of my instructors shared this interesting and consistent principle that is seen throughout Scripture.
- "God consistently called people who are busy doing something."
- *They may not be doing that which is right, like the Apostle Paul, but they are busy. They weren't lazy*
- My grandfather told me; *"find a man who will not work and he will not amount to anything in life."*
- **2nd principle / God's call is from something to something else.**
- We see this principle right here with Elisha.

2nd Point The Symbolic Act Of Leadership Change (1 Kings 19:19...cast his mantle upon him.)

- You see, throwing a prophet's cloak on a person symbolized the passing of power and authority of the office to that individual.
 - Notice that Elisha realized the meaning of this act by his reaction
 - Immediately Elisha started to abandon his former occupation and followed Elijah
 - Note in **verse 20** that Elijah gave him permission to say farewell to his family.
 - Note also in **verse 21** that Elisha sealed his decision by:
 - o slaughtering his oxen,
 - o burning his plowing tools,
 - o and then hosted a farewell banquet
 - o then he would serve his sacrificed animals to his guest for supper
- After doing all this, Elisha would leave and accompany Elijah as his servant.

When our Lord called HIS disciples, He commanded them to drop their nets and follow HIM.

- *The Apostle Paul stopped **persecuting the Church** and started **preaching to the Church**.*
- *The Apostle Peter stopped **denying the Lord** and started **defending the Lord**.*

3rd Point Three Victorious Battles (1 Kings 20:1-12)

- When come to chapter 20, the scene now shifts from Elijah to King Ahab.
- We have three battles that King Ahab fought and all three resulted in victories.
- There's are many lessons here for us saints to learn.
- Remember, we've already studied about the removal of Baal worship throughout the land.
- Victory comes after sin is removed.
- **Saints, that is still true today!**

4th Point The First Victory (1 Kings 20:1-12)

- There was this King Ben-Hadad II the King of Aram, Israel's northern neighbor.
- He, along with 32 other rulers, would go up to the hill of Samaria and attack King Ahab.
- What happens next is truly fascinating.
- Let's read the account:
 - *This King Ben-Hadad would send messengers to King Ahab with his demand to withdraw (vs. 2-3)*
 - *He demanded silver, and gold, and wives, and children. (v. 3)*
 - *King Ahab realizes that he is outnumbered so he submitted to these terms (v. 4)*
 - *Here's where things get really interesting.*
 - *Undoubtably, King Ben-Hadad regretted what he asked for thinking that his demands were too easy based on the fact that King Ahab agreed to them so quickly without any resistance.*
 - *So, King Ben-Hadad would send his messengers back with a new demand (vs. 5-6)*
- Now let's consider what this demand says:
 - King Ben-Hadad now wanted everything of value he could lay his hand on.
 - **THE SINFUL HEART CAN NEVER BE SATISFIED!**

5th Point The Importance Of Wise Counsel (1 Kings 20:7-8)

- What King Ahab does next is one of the wisest decisions he made as a King.
- He consulted with the elders. If only he had consulted them about changing the worship of the LORD God.
- What does the Bible say about wise counsel?

- Let's consider the words of Solomon in **Proverbs 11:14**
- Here Solomon is saying that a multitude of counselors provides security and that those who refuse wise advice are foolish
- **The benefits of wise counsel:**
- **A)** Wisdom and Growth – you see a wise person listens to advice and becomes even wiser (**Proverbs 1:5**)
- **B)** Avoid foolishness (**Proverbs 12:15**)

6th Point Pride Goeth Before A Fall (1 Kings 20:9-12)

- What happens in these verses shows us the dangers of pride.
- King Ahab tells the messengers of King Ben-Hadad that he would honor the first demand, but not the second (**v. 9**).
- This didn't sit well with King Ben-Hadad; he was enraged and boasted that he was gonna destroy Samaria (**v. 10**)
- King Ahab responded by telling King Ben-Hadad that he shouldn't boast of victory before he has actually achieved victory (**v. 11**)
- We can't but see the danger of being under the influence of strong drink (**v. 12**)

7th Point The Grace Of God (1 Kings 20:12-13)

- What happens next is truly the action of a loving God.
- In **verse 12** King Ben-Hadad is preparing to attack.
- Meanwhile in **verse 13** a prophet, whose name is not given, went to Ahab with a message from the LORD.
- The message says; God's gonna deliver the huge Aramean army into King Ahab hand.
- **WHY?** So that Ahab would know that **HE IS THE LORD!**
- Saints, God's goodness here isn't prompted by Ahab's godliness but by God's own grace.

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