

I. Outward: Understanding The Principle of Honor (1-5)

A. He faithfully served Elijah (1) - “Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.”

B. He devotedly stood by Elijah (2,4) - “And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel... 4 Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho.”

C. He loyally honored Elijah (3,5) - “And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”... 5 The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.” **Elisha refused to enter into any form of idle talk about the man God put over him**

II. Inward: Cultivating The Substance of Maturity (6-8)

“The worst thing that can happen to man is to succeed before he is ready.” - Martyn Lloyd-Jones

A. Consistency in his inward character (6) - “Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.” **For a 3rd time, he refused to leave Elijah**

B. Awareness of his public testimony (7) - “Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.” **Scripture reminds us that not only God was watching Elisha, but so was his fellow-man**

C. Steadiness in the presence of power (8) - “Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.”

III. Upward: Living In Spiritual Passion (9-15)

A. Elisha dreamed big (9) - “When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”

B. Elisha stretched others (10) - “And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.”

C. Elisha loved deeply (11-12) - “And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12a And Elisha saw it and he cried, “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.”

D. Elisha expected much (13-14a) - “And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?””

E. Elisha was promoted by God (14b-15) - “And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.”