

Elijah (Part II) - The Power of Submission!

<u>1 Kings 19:12</u>: (NASB) And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

CQ POWER SERIES POWER of Courage POWER of Submission POWER of Legacy Two weeks ago, we talked about Elijah and the incredible courage he had toward accomplishing God's will. We saw him prophesy, take responsibility, wait, perform miracles, wait some more, appear before his greatest enemy and overwhelmingly conquer in a challenge to prove God is in fact, God over all. The next thing we knew, Elijah was running for his life - afraid and feeling alone. It turns out that all his heroics got him were more threats on his life. What happens to that courageous prophet of God now? He still must fight but in a different way, for in this next stage of his life God is going to teach him submission. Submission

does not sound like a characteristic that belongs with courage, but as we will see, courage will burn you without submission and submission will burden you without courage. This is a core lesson in the life of Elijah.

As Christians, we want the courage to do God's will in any way He leads us, and submission and humility are needed to have courage. But submission to what, how, why and when?

Submission follows courage in Elijah's life so he can truly learn humility, for his courage was "off the charts" heroic. The things he did and the stand he took to confront the king and the prophets of Baal were Samson-like in their strength, Moses-like in their leadership and David-like in their intensity. Elijah single-handedly stood and fought to save the nation of Israel. The danger of such extraordinary accomplishment is that we can begin to believe we are its source. (Please see Part I of this program.)



Courage can bring ego. Submission can bring cowering, viewed as weakness or having no backbone. We need to be properly courageous and properly submissive.

Lesson #13 Courage is not perfect and

sometimes falls prey to fear.

A quick recap of the story we started in Part I:

<u>1 Kings 19:1-3</u>: (NASB) ¹Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, so may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. ³And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

While this part of Elijah's experience was a lesson in courage, it also served as a lesson in submission. By God's strength and through Elijah's hand, God had shown His sovereignty. The drought was over and the prophets of Baal were dead. Now he had to run for his life. WHY? Here is where we begin our submission lessons.



SUBMISSION LESSON

Submission's power may be an unseen necessity when we have an

emotional and pressing need for an.

answer to the question "WHY?"

Elijah had to wonder why he was now running for his life again instead of simply rejoicing in the overruling power of God.

What does "submission's power" mean? Submission wields incredible power, but a different kind than we are used to. This is what we will see as we unfold the life of Elijah.

After Elijah did all of this work for God, he would not have expected he would be running for his life. He expected Israel would come back to God after such demonstrations of God's power and sovereignty.

Integrity (doing the right thing even when no one is looking) and submission are closely related. Having integrity means submitting to righteousness and something bigger than yourself.

(I)) Our compass, Building Integrity - Keeping Promises, Erick Rainey, TEDtalk

• This speech is not about climbing a mountain, overcoming cancer, winning a gold medal or dodging bullets on the battlefield. It's about something that goes on inside our mind, it's very subtle, but outside has a profound effect on how people perceive you. Each day we make hundreds of decisions and some of those decisions are to do with commitment. By the way, I was down in London on the Piccadilly line, and I was thundering through the tunnel and there was a woman reading a book opposite of me, and I kid you not, the title of this book was, "Commitment: Men Can't Even Spell It." Seriously, we make loads of decisions based on commitment, agreements and promises, but when we break our promises, what happens is our internal compass spins around and we lose direction so that people look at you and go, "He's lost his integrity," "She hasn't got any integrity." This is a leadership issue, and we're all involved because it's self-leadership that I'm talking about.

Any success in life requires commitment. (Marriage is a great example of this!) Submission is allowing what you are committed to to run you.





At this stage we can say, "Something is out of order and needs to be fixed."

What happened to Elijah to draw this second lesson out?

<u>1 Kings 19:4-8</u>: (NASB77) ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, it is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers. ("I failed!") ⁵And he lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, Arise, eat. (Here comes a boost of spiritual confidence...) ⁶Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank and lay down again. (But the boost wasn't as much as it should have been...) ⁷And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you. ⁸So he arose and ate and drank, (it took a second time to get him out of his lethargy to move on) and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Elijah was emotionally broken but still obedient. When we do not know the answer and are feeling broken, are we still obedient to take the sustenance supplied to us and continue?

It is great to know about submission, but how can we be guided by it?

(Source: Biblical commentary by Matthew Poole) Unto Horeb: he wandered hither and thither for forty days, till at last he came to Horeb, which in the direct road was not above three or four days' journey.



It took Elijah 40 days to get to a place that should have taken three or four days. He was fasting, praying and wandering during this time. Our selfdoubt can at times cause us to wander, and God will often allow that wandering to complete its course and purpose - our purification and preparation to receive God's direction. Elijah was going to receive God's direction at Mt. Horeb and needed to be ready to do so, but it would take him 40 days to get to that point. Who else fasted and prayed for 40 days? Both Jesus and Moses. In an interesting parallel, Moses was at Mt. Horeb during his preparation time where he received the Law.



Side note: The three individuals who fasted and prayed for 40 days all appeared in the vision on the Mount of Transfiguration. <u>Matthew 17:1-13</u>



Elijah was confused at this point. He did not understand why those incredible miracles God performed did not work. In his mind, he was a total failure. He would have been wrestling with this during his wandering.

After 40 days of hashing this over, he arrives at Mt. Horeb:

<u>1 Kings 19:9-12</u>: (NASB77) ⁹Then he came there to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, what are you doing here, Elijah? (Wasn't he told to come here?) ¹⁰And he said, I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. (He tells the Lord exactly what is on his mind. It made no sense to Elijah that he was in this situation.) ¹¹So He said, go forth, and stand on the mountain before the LORD. And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks 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 a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

Just as with Moses, God was passing by, but His presence was not in the calamitous power Elijah witnessed - those things preceded Him - His presence was in (according to the Hebrew) *the sound of gentle stillness*.

SUBMISSION LESSON

Submission's power is evidenced when once we have spoken our need, we can hear the quietness of God's answer and His direction for our future



Sometimes we do not look for the quietness of God's answer. We want the bells and whistles, the earth shaking and fireworks - all of the "big stuff" to show us God's answer. Submission is when we finally come to a point of pouring our hearts out to God with what is bothering us. Then we can be open to begin to hear the quietness of His answer.

We have to listen carefully. Often quietness is where we can begin to get the direction for our future. That is when Elijah could start putting things into perspective.

Elijah realizes God is not in the wind, fire or earthquake.

What does Elijah do next?

<u>1 Kings 19:13-16</u>: (NASB77) ¹³And it came about when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle (his outer garment, a symbol of his power that will come into play later), and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, what are you doing here, Elijah? (Again the same question...) ¹⁴Then he said, I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. (Same answer, but now Elijah is ready to listen - he knows to now listen for the stillness, the gentle guidance of God's will.) ¹⁵And the LORD said to him, Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; ¹⁶and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat...you shall anoint as a prophet in your place.

He is given specific directions for a new mission. Previously his mission was to proclaim doom, destruction and drought. He brought down the prophets of Baal. Now his mission was one of anointing - setting people apart for a godly purpose.

God revealed not only a new direction in Israel, but in Aram (Syria) as well. Elijah's efforts were not in vain as he had thought - they were a stepping stone in God's plan! The story was not over like he had thought - it was just the beginning.

This is an incredible lesson in submission! He was so depressed he could not listen. God had to allow 40 days of preparedness before bringing him to a different place. This is a very inspirational moment. Elijah began to get his feet under him again, seeing a direction to walk as he submitted to the will of God.

(I)) Our light is integrity, Building Integrity - Keeping Promises, Erick Rainey TEDtalk

• From world leaders down to housewives, from CEOs to schoolchildren, we need to learn how to keep our word, because when we do, our integrity grows. When we make agreements, we do it with the best intention. We believe fully that we are going to fulfill that agreement, and then life gets in the way. Maryann Williamson once wrote, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us most. And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give permission for other people to do the same. But



just how exactly are we supposed to let our light shine? I believe one way is through integrity.



Sometimes we think we know the answers based on our life's experiences but then find out we do not. We find there is something bigger, better, stronger and contrary to what we thought was or what should be.



<u>1 Kings 19:17-19</u>: (NASB77) ¹⁷And it shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. ¹⁸Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him. ¹⁹So he departed from there and found Elisha...while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him...and Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him.

On top of the new direction, there is a newly revealed reality of thousands of people who were God's people! They were there all along, but Elijah did not know about them.

What is King Ahab's history now that there is another anointed king?

After a series of battles in <u>1 Kings 20</u> in which King Ahab was victorious by the hand of God, (battles won by God not for the sake of Ahab but for the sake of God's own name) Ahab's true character again comes out as he makes compromises with God's enemies. His pride and arrogance came through.

When these things are revealed, the glory of his victories is sullied and Ahab responds:

<u>1 Kings 20:43</u>: (NASB77) So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and vexed, and came to Samaria.

Sometimes compromise is the epitome of integrity, but there are many times where compromise is the *opposite* of integrity. We should not be compromising our principles.



(\neg, \neg) Buy an hour, Building Integrity - Keeping Promises, Erick Rainey, TEDtalk

When we walk into a room we flick the switch, and it moves the room from darkness to light. It takes one second, but it changes everything. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we had a switch in our heart that moved us from darkness to light? Guess what? We do. It's called "integrity," and one small part of integrity is when we do what we say we're going to do, and we fulfill our word, our light shines. When we break our promises our light goes out.







I heard a story about a little girl named Jessie. She loved words, and her father promised her that he would come home early one evening and they would play Scrabble. She put her chair by the door on Friday evening and she waited and she waited. Hours later, her father came through the door full of apologies about how he had to stay late at the office, and he couldn't possibly play Scrabble; it was just too late. Jessie was undaunted. She said, "Daddy, how much money do you make?" He said, "That's none of your business, Jessie." She said, "No, I really want to know." He said, "Well, if you must know, I make twenty pounds an hour." She said, "Good, can I borrow four pounds?" He said, "Certainly not." So, she went upstairs feeling rather dejected. Then, feeling guilty, he went upstairs a little bit later and said, "I'm sorry honey. I was a bit hard on you. Here's the four pounds you wanted to borrow." "Oh, thanks, Daddy!" She reached over and pulled a jar of coins and started counting furiously. "I'm confused. Why did you ask for four pounds when you had so much money in the first place?" She said, "I didn't think I had enough and now I do. Daddy, here's twenty pounds. Can I buy an hour of vour time?"

We should submit to that which is most important.



We see this power in Elijah's life:

<u>1 Kings 21:1-16</u>: (NASB77) ¹Now it came about after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ²And Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I



will give you the price of it in money. ³But Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers. ⁴So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth...had spoken to him; for he said, I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers. (Naboth considered his land to be a sacred inheritance from God.) And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food. ⁵But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, how is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food? ⁶So he said to her, Because I spoke to Naboth...and said to him, give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you a vineyard in its place. But he said, I will not give you my vineyard. ⁷And Jezebel his wife said to him, do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

The utter lack of respect for the rights of others, for the land and for righteousness is resounding! This was one of the warnings given when Israel demanded a king to rule them in lieu of the judges set up by God. Authority in the hands of imperfect men is often abused.



"Jezebel" by Byam Shaw (1872–1919) Russell–Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Bournemouth, England

⁸So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city. ⁹Now she wrote in the letters, saying, proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the people; ¹⁰and seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him, saying, you cursed God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death. (How evil and treacherous!) ¹¹So the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them, just as it was written in the letters which she had sent them. ¹²They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people. ¹³Then the two worthless men came in and sat before him; and the worthless men testified against him, even against Naboth, before the people, saying, Naboth cursed God and the king. So, they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. ¹⁴Then they sent word to Jezebel, saying, Naboth has been stoned, and is dead.

This man by all accounts did nothing wrong but got caught up in the whims of an idolatrous king. This is a lesson in contrast with the power of submission. This was a wielding of power to frame and kill an innocent man to get a vegetable garden.

¹⁵And it came about when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead. ¹⁶And it came about when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

The power of submission seeks to do God's will instead of seeking after our own wants.



Eljiah had to understand that the great courage he had displayed earlier in his life served a purpose. It was an "introductory statement" by God to be followed by many others.

The stark contrast between Elijah's life and that of Ahab and Jezebel are obvious.

We need to remember that God's timing is always different than ours. Be submissive and wait for it. This is what Elijah was taught to do. He was then shown he was not alone and found out God had big plans for him.



(1) Movie extra, Building Integrity - Keeping Promises, Erick Rainey, TEDtalk

• I've had to be reminded many times throughout my life. I used to be an extra in the movie industry and one day my agent phoned me up and he said, "Erick, I've got this job for you. You're perfect for it!" He used to say that about every job he ever gave me. The trouble was this job came on a Saturday, a day I had promised my son Noah that I would attend his gymnastics competition. I knew how important it was for him to have his daddy there, but I took the job anyway. Saturday morning came along, and I found myself on the set of a Hollywood blockbuster called "Spy Games." They dressed me as a CIA agent, complete with briefcase, brown trench coat and a mobile phone. There were three other extras dressed as agents, and then we were joined by another gentleman - Robert Redford. The second assistant said, "It's real easy, guys, all you have to do is follow Robert down the corridor." The cameras started to roll and it was, "Go Robert! Go Mark! Go John! Go Steven! Go Erick!" We walked down the corridor cool as cucumbers. "Cut!" The first take was in the can.



Submission and courage are inseparable once we clearly understand them.

<u>1 Kings 21:17-29</u>: (NASB77) ¹⁷Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah...saying, ¹⁸Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth where he has gone down to take possession of it. ¹⁹And you shall speak to him, saying, thus says the LORD, have you murdered, and also taken possession? And you shall speak to him, saying, Thus says the LORD, In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs shall lick up your blood, even yours.



Elijah was called upon to do something courageous - go to his enemy again and confront him on the murder of an innocent man. Years of submission and trust have brought Elijah to similar ground as during the drought. (See Part I.)

He is now courageous, clear and constant in delivering God's messages:

²⁰And Ahab said to Elijah, have you found me, O my enemy? And he answered, I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD. ²¹Behold, I will bring evil upon you, and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, both bond and free in Israel; ²²and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam...and like the house of Baasha...because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and because you have made Israel sin.

This is a great example of how submission can be a tool to find deep courage. God is the God of our lives. He temporarily allows Satan to be the god of this world. We can choose for either Satan to be the god of our lives or for God to be sovereign. If we choose God, then submission to His will brings courage to fulfill that will.

Has anything changed from the encounter with Ahab years before? Nope! Ahab has seen the hand of God many times and still refuses to submit, and Elijah - who has fully submitted to God's hand - is again in control! Nothing was changed!

²³And of Jezebel also has the LORD spoken, saying, the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel. ²⁴The one belonging to Ahab, who dies in the city, the dogs shall eat, and the one who dies in the field the birds of heaven shall eat. ²⁵Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife incited him. ²⁶And he acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the sons of Israel.

Ahab was given multiple opportunities to repent of his evil but continued to stay with the darkness he had chosen, largely because of his wife.

Elijah finishes the prophecy with graphic detail and Ahab finally begins to open his eyes:

²⁷And it came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently. ²⁸Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son's days.

Ahab finally BEGINS to acknowledge God.

Three years passed (<u>1 Kings 22</u>) and Ahab was again going to war. Once again, he disregarded the advice of one of God's prophets and his "repentance" seemed to wear off. Even though he disguised himself in battle, he was killed.



Submission brings great accountability. If we are accountable to God, our submission can be tracked by Him. Without that accountability, we will always fail because humankind needs something bigger to guide it.



We see today we are completely lost when it comes to the ability to guide ourselves. We need godly principles in our lives. The accountability of submission is an important component.

Does Israel finally turn back to God now that Ahab is gone?

God gave Ahab the blessing of time to come back to Him, but he did not. God fulfilled Elijah's words. Now Ahab's son would live to see the power of God through Elijah as his father did.

(1))The phone call, Building Integrity - Keeping Promises, Erick Rainey, TEDtalk

• Now, I don't know if you know this but it takes a really long time to reset on these big budget movies. I got really bored, so I started pushing the buttons on my prop phone. It came on; it wasn't a prop at all. I thought, who can I phone and impress with my newfound friendship with Robert Redford? I thought, I'll call Noah. He's probably still at home, he hasn't left for the gymnastics comp yet. "Noah you'll never guess who I'm working with today! Robert Redford!" He said, "Who's he?" I was left with generation gap egg all over my face. Just then, the assistant came up and he took the phone from me, and he hands it to Robert saying, the director wanted Robert to be on the phone for the next take. The cameras started to roll and it was "Go! Go! Go!" We walked down the corridor. The phone in Robert's hand started to ring. My son had dialed last number redial trying to call me back!

SUBMISSION LESSON

Submission's power, once personally

absorbed, not only sustains courage, it

becomes a conduit for the power of God

to flow through in a mighty way

Elijah is completely absorbed in submission to the will of God and no longer depressed or worried. He knows the direction to go is wherever God instructs. He had grown since that time he sat under the juniper tree asking for death. He had seen God's hand in his life and that of the nation of Israel and understood he had a role to play.



<u>2 Kings 1:1-4</u>: (NASB77) ¹Now Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. ²And Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber which was in Samaria, and became ill. So, he sent messengers and said to them, Go, inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness. ³But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron? ⁴Now therefore thus says the LORD, you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but you shall surely die. Then Elijah departed.

Like father like son! (This reminds us to give our children examples of godly submission rather than egotism.) Ahab's son gets sick and asks for the counsel of Baalzebub, a god already proven by Elijah to be false.

How short our memories are when we are full of ego.

A thorough ingraining of submission to God's will brings swift and complete action:

<u>2 Kings 1:5-8</u>: (NASB77) ⁵When the messengers returned to him he said to them, why have you returned? ⁶And they said to him, a man came up to meet us and said to us, Go, return to the king who sent you and say to him, thus says the LORD, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore, you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die. ⁷And he said to them, what kind of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you? ⁸And they answered him, He was a hairy man with a leather girdle bound about his loins. And he said, it is Elijah the Tishbite.

The kingly contrast to submission is arrogance - having no need to acknowledge true power and hiding behind their own perceived power. As long as an idolatrous attitude prevails, godly submission has no room to grow.

The king's next steps are a predictable disaster:

<u>2 Kings 1:9-16</u>: (NASB77) ⁹Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him, and behold, he was sitting on the top of the hill. And he said to him, O man of God, the king says, Come down. ¹⁰And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty. Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. ¹¹So he again sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty.

The longer you go without the growth of godly submission, the greater the cost to all around you. The king sent these men to their deaths.

Where there is humility there can be grace:

¹³...When the third captain of fifty went up, he came and bowed down on his knees before Elijah, and begged him and said to him, O man of God, please let my life and the lives of these fifty **servants of yours** be precious in your sight. (He recognized Elijah served a power much bigger than the king.) ¹⁴Behold fire came down from heaven, and consumed the first two captains of fifty with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in your sight. ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, go down with him; do not be afraid of him. So, he arose and went down with him to the king. ¹⁶Then he said to him, thus says the LORD, because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron - is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die. (Elijah says exactly what he is supposed to say directly to the king - there is power in submission! The king dies.)



What effect can our godly submission have on those around us?



As Elijah is being readied to be taken away, Elisha as the successor is in need of testing. He needs to walk in the path of Elijah.



In the life of Elijah, we see many symbols of prophetic events that would happen. *We suggest* one example of this is illustrated in their three stopping places after Gilgal. Each represents another step for Elisha to learn about the mission of Elijah. They began in Gilgal which means, "I have rolled away the reproach." (Joshua 5:9). This is what Elijah was first called to do - he was sent to take away the reproach, the disapproval of God that was upon Israel because of their guilt from idolatry. He instructed the people to act differently.

<u>2 Kings 2:1-6</u>: (NASB77) ¹And it came about when the LORD was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, stay here please, 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. (Elisha was loyal.) So, they went down to Bethel.

Bethel means "House of God," named for the place where Jacob's ladder stood. Elijah had rolled away Israel's reproach and brought them back to the place where they could worship God.





³Then 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. ⁴And 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.

In other words, "I will not be parted from you, Elijah, as you represent submission and courage in doing the will of God. I want to support that!"



Service A symbol of the Law Covenant which was the only way to truly worship God in those days. Jericho means "moon." The moon in Scripture is a symbol of the Law

> Elijah's mission continued with showing Israel the method by which they could worship the Lord, the Law Covenant.

⁵And 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. ⁶Then Elijah said to him, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan. And he said, As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you. So, the two of them went on.

It was not too long ago when Elijah thought he was all alone. Now we see the sons of the prophets, godly men, in each of these cities. God was right - there were 7,000 who had not bowed a knee to Baal. Elijah is



meeting some of them, which would have been faith strengthening. There was a time he would not have believed this to be true. In God's time and with God's way, submitting to the will of God and having patience with His timing showed Elijah that all things came together in a way that made sense.

Jordan means "descender" and can be seen to typify the downward course of humanity towards certain death to the Dead Sea. To "cross the Jordan" is a symbol of being delivered. Elisha had to see the deliverance at the end of Elijah's journey.



He had to see that Elijah had been sent to roll away the reproach of Israel, to bring them to a place where they could worship God. He brought them to a



method by which they could worship God, the Law. Finally, he had to see that Elijah's work was done and his deliverance was right before them. It is interesting to look at the names of these places and consider their relationship to the steps of Elijah's life that Elisha would need to learn so he could be encouraged. Elisha was about to take on incredible responsibility.



- Now, I'm told in road traffic accidents people see events unfold in slow motion. That's exactly what happened to me as I went (said in slow motion) "Don't...answer...the...phone...Robert!" Too late. He answered.
- (Redford) Hello?
- (Son) Dad?
- (Redford) No, who is this?
- (Son) Noah! Who's this?
- (Redford) Robert. What's your dad's name?
- (Son) Erick.
- (Redford, shouting) Erick! Erick!
- Robert Redford is holding the phone up shouting my name, the cameras are still rolling, and men start running in every direction and out of the chaos, I see him turn and come towards me to have a few choice words. He says, "Erick, what's your son doing calling you in the middle of a movie shoot?" I explain to him how I had promised my son I would attend his gymnastics competition, but that my agent had phoned me with this amazing job that I was perfect for. Robert leaned forward and he said, "Erick, I know a movie that's being cast right now. You are perfect for it. It's called "Being a Responsible Father" and there's a little boy at home who needs to see him." Sometimes it takes an adult to remind us how to flick the switch of integrity and let our light shine.



Next, Elijah uses his mantle to part the Jordan River and the two of them cross:

<u>2 Kings 2:9-14</u>: (NAS) ⁹Now it came about when they had crossed over, 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. ¹⁰And he said, you have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.



Elisha is thoroughly focused on being able to carry the mantle of responsibility that he was being directly given, he is asking for a double portion of that which a first-born son would inherit. Essentially he is saying, "I want to be your firstborn when it comes to fulfilling the will of God."

¹¹Then 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. ¹²And Elisha saw it and cried out, my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen! And he saw him no more.



The legacy of courage for and submission to God's will was now entirely in Elisha's hands. The transfer was made.



¹³...Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹⁴And 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.

Elisha was given the mantle of great power to use it in the same way Elijah did. Elisha knows he carries the legacy of this great powerful, submissive, courageous prophet of God.

Part III will look at the legacy of Elijah through various prophetic fulfillments. We will look further at the power of standing in the place Elijah stood.

Elijah (Part II) - The Power of Submission! For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!



Scriptures that reveal the power and joy of submission:

John 4:34: (NASB77) Jesus said to them, my food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to accomplish His work.

<u>Psalm 40:7-11</u>: (NASB77) ⁷Then I said, Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me; ⁸I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart. ⁹I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O LORD, Thou knowest. ¹⁰I have not hidden Thy righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation; I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great congregation. ¹¹Thou, O LORD, wilt not withhold Thy compassion from me; Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth will continually preserve me.

Psalm 119:1-24: (NASB77) 'How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. ²How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart. ³They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways. ⁴Thou hast ordained Thy precepts, that we should keep them diligently. ⁵Oh that my ways may be established to keep Thy statutes! ⁶Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Thy commandments. ⁷I shall give thanks to Thee with uprightness of heart, When I learn Thy righteous judgments. ⁸I shall keep Thy statutes; Do not forsake me utterly! ⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word. ¹⁰With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments. ¹¹Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee. ¹²Blessed art Thou, O LORD; Teach me Thy statutes. ¹³With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Thy mouth. ¹⁴I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies. As much as in all riches. ¹⁵I will meditate on Thy precepts, and regard Thy ways. ¹⁶I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word. ¹⁷ Deal bountifully with Thy servant, That I may live and keep Thy word. ¹⁸Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law. ¹⁹I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Thy commandments from me. ²⁰My soul is crushed with longing After Thine ordinances at all times. ²¹Thou dost rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, who wander from Thy commandments. ²²Take away reproach and contempt from me, For I observe Thy testimonies. ²³Even though princes sit and talk against me, thy servant meditates on Thy statutes. ²⁴Thy testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors.

Leadership is an act of submission to God. To be a leader means listening to all kinds of people and situations. Out of that listening, we are hoping to discern the mind of God as best we can. This is the price of leadership - it's an act of sacrifice. So, leadership is part and parcel of the work of submission to God. — Richard Foster

A bit more on the four locations that Elijah and Elisha traveled from and to at the end of Elijah's prophetic career: (Source: Online Bible Hebrew Lexicon)

Gilgal = "a wheel, rolling"

1) The first site of an Israelite camp west of the Jordan, east of Jericho, here Samuel was judge, and Saul was made king; later used for illicit worship

2) Dwelling place of prophets in northern Israel about four miles (7 km) from Shiloh and Bethel

3) A region conquered by Joshua, site unsure

Joshua 5:9: (NASB77) Then the LORD said to Joshua, Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you. So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.



Bethel = "house of God"

1) Ancient place and seat of worship in Ephraim on border of Benjamin, identified with Luz (former name)

2) a place in south country of Judah, not far from Beersheba and Ziklag

Beth-el is the place where Jacob's ladder stood, receiving its name in consequence of that vision.

Jericho = "its moon"

A city 5 miles (8 km) west of the Jordan and 7 miles (11.5 km) north of the Dead Sea and the first city conquered by the Israelites upon entering the promised land of Canaan.

Jordan = "descender"

The river of Palestine running from the roots of Anti-Lebanon to the Dead Sea a distance of approximately 200 miles (320 km).

(Source: Biblical commentary by C.T. Russell) The word Jordan has the significance of "judged down;" thus would seem to represent the peoples of earth, judged by the truth... To the Royal Priesthood, Jordan represents consecration unto death...