

God Time Day 1: Be Faithful Where You Are



The Prophet Elisha is a significant figure of faith. While he may not be as well known as some other prophets, Elisha performed more miracles in recorded Scripture than anyone in the Old Testament. Yet, before he was a prophet, Elisha came from humble beginnings.



Read 1 Kings 19:19.

¹⁹ *Elijah left there and found Elisha son of Shaphat as he was plowing. Twelve teams of oxen were in front of him, and he was with the twelfth team. Elijah walked by him and threw his mantle over him.*

Elisha was not a priest, did not work in the temple, nor did he have a seminary degree. He was only a simple farmer when God called him. Yet, Elisha’s faith was dedicated to God.

What are your “humble beginnings?”

How do you, or can you, live out your faithfulness to God in your current situation?

God Time Day 2: The Obedience of Elisha



Read 1 Kings 19:20-21.

²⁰ *Elisha left the oxen, ran to follow Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow you.”*

“Go on back,” he replied, “for what have I done to you?”

²¹ *So he turned back from following him, took the team of oxen, and slaughtered them. With the oxen’s wooden yoke and plow, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he left, followed Elijah, and served him.*

As Elisha is living out his normal life, God leads the great prophet Elijah to call him into service. Elisha immediately drops everything to follow God’s calling.



Take some time to reflect on what may hold you back. What might keep you from pursuing God’s calling when it comes?

God Time Day 3: You Don’t Have to Fully Understand



Go back and read 1 Kings 19:19 & 21 from Days 1 & 2.

Elisha is plowing a field when the Prophet Elijah comes along and throws his “*mantle*” over him. This might seem weird to us but this was a very symbolic act during that time. It signified a type of “adoption” into that person’s care and responsibility. Essentially, “I am taking you under my wing.”

Immediately after this, the two of them sit down and begin to negotiate the terms of Elisha’s contract. After all, if Elisha was going to become a prophet like Elijah, he needed to fully understand the benefits package and 401K. No?

No, Elisha immediately drops everything to follow Elijah. He has no details about what to expect but only knew that God is calling him. (Much like Matthew 19:18-20.)

There are reasons why God doesn’t give us all the details. Perhaps we can’t handle it, we can’t understand, or we’d mess it up.

We like having “all” the information because it gives us a sense of control. But knowing too much in advance can cause overwhelming stress and anxiety, often resulting in us giving up before even trying.



Read Proverbs 3:5-6.

⁵ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding;* ⁶ *in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Is there an idea or action you feel God calling you to pursue?

What would be the first step to pursuing that calling?



Now, pray for God to give you the courage to both step out in faith and take that first step! Then trust God to lead you into the next step when the time is right.

God Time Day 4: Be Willing to Let Go



Go back again and read 1 Kings 19:21 from Day 2.

After Elijah calls Elisha into service, Elisha throws a big party by cooking his oxen using the yoke and plow as firewood. This was no small act. These were essentially the tools of his trade and his prized possessions. Once Elisha does this, there is no turning back.

For many of us, this seems very unwise. After all, shouldn't Elisha have a backup plan just in case this new occupation doesn't work out? What if he fails at being a prophet? How could he return to being a farmhand if he just destroyed all his tools?

We need to understand something:

The people that God uses the most are those who hold on to the least.

There are many stories in Scripture of those who struggled to follow God because of fear of losing what they had.

- The Rich Young Ruler in Matthew 19:16-22.
- Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30.
- The Israelites grumbling throughout Exodus.

Living a life of obedience to God means giving up control. This includes letting go of the "safety nets" we might put into place – just in case God doesn't come through like we expect He should.



We ended Day 3 by talking about what God is calling you to do and having the courage to take the first step in doing it. Today, take some time to reflect on what might be holding you back. Write down the things you are afraid of losing and pray for God to help you trust Him and let go of them.

God Time Day 5: Take a Step Towards the Unbelievable



As we look back at the faithful obedience of Elisha, we might be tempted to think, "But that was way back then in Bible times. Things are different now." But are things all that different today? No, the journey of obedience always begins with a single step of faith. And conversely, the journey of faith always begins with a single step of obedience.

So, let's put it all together.

What is God calling you to do now? Is there a passion or a need God has laid on your heart? (Note: It doesn't have to be big to be important for God's kingdom.)

Now, what would be the first step towards being obedient to that calling? (Is it a conversation for guidance, or simply saying yes to an opportunity?)



What fears might be preventing you from taking that step?

What will you have to give up or let go of to pursue God's calling? What kind of sacrifices do you need to make? (Material, financial, emotional, expectations, comfort, etc.?)

Look back at the fears you mentioned and the possible sacrifices you will need to make. Consider which is more valuable: living according to God's will and the blessings that come from following Him, or avoiding those fears and holding on to those things you listed.



Spend some time praying about the priorities in your life, and then plan to take that first step today.