

God's Call: Is It for Me?

1 Kings 19:19-21

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "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?" ²¹And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

1 Kings 19:19-21 (English Standard Version)

- **GOD'S CALL COMES CLEARLY.** (1 Kings 19:19)

Defining God's Call: God's personal, individual summons to carry out a unique task He has given specifically to you

Examples of God's Call

- Moses (Exodus 3:1-2)
- Matthew (Matthew 9:9)
- Paul (Acts 9:15)

And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. 1 Kings 19:15-17 (ESV)

- Spend time in listening prayer.
- Read and meditate on the Bible.
- Gain the counsel of godly Christians.
- Wisely evaluate the circumstances of your life.
- If contemplating a long-term calling, seek pastoral input.

- **GOD'S CALL REQUIRES AN OBEDIENT RESPONSE.** (1 Kings 19:20-21a)

Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:61-62 (ESV)

Three Actions Elisha Takes

- He counts the cost.
- He makes the decision to obey.
- He commemorates the reality of his call.

- **GOD'S CALL SOMETIMES STARTS SMALL.** (1 Kings 19:21b)

And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, through whom we may inquire of the LORD?" Then one of the king of Israel's servants answered, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah." 2 Kings 3:11 (ESV)