

LIVING FOR CHRIST

Lesson 1: Choosing to Follow – The Christ-like Life

Textual Focus: 1 Kings 19:19-21; John 1:35-51

1 Kings 19:19-21

- ❖ Elijah had just experienced victory at Mount Carmel followed by discouragement and opposition from Jezebel – 1 Kin. 18:38-39; 1 Kin. 19:1-4
- ❖ God instructed Elijah to anoint Elisha as prophet in his room – 1 Kin. 19:16
- ❖ Elisha was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, indicating responsibility and stability – 1 Kin. 19:19
- ❖ When Elijah cast his mantle upon Elisha, Elisha had to choose between remaining in what was familiar or following God's call – 1 Kin. 19:20-21

John 1:35-51

- ❖ This passage takes place during the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry – Joh. 1:35-37
- ❖ John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Lamb of God, causing several disciples to begin following Him – Joh. 1:36-37
- ❖ Jesus personally called ordinary men into discipleship – Joh. 1:40-49
- ❖ The disciples had to decide whether to remain in ordinary life or fully follow Christ – Mat. 4:19-20

Comparison of Elisha and Jesus' Disciples

- ❖ Elisha was called while working in the field – 1 Kin. 19:19; 1 Kin. 19:20
- ❖ Jesus called disciples while they were working ordinary jobs – Mat. 4:18-22; Joh. 1:43
- ❖ Elisha left oxen and business behind to follow the call – 1 Kin. 19:21; Luk. 5:28
- ❖ The disciples left nets, ships, and security to follow Jesus – Mat. 4:20; Mar. 10:28
- ❖ Elisha served Elijah before leading publicly – 2 Kin. 3:11; 2 Kin. 2:9
- ❖ The disciples walked with Jesus before being sent out – Mar. 3:14; Luk. 9:1-2
- ❖ God develops followers before He develops leaders – Jos. 1:1-2; Luk. 16:10

Choosing to Follow

- ❖ Choosing who you will follow is more powerful than who you will lead – 1 Kin. 19:20; Mar. 3:14
- ❖ Choosing who you follow establishes the validity of your leadership – 2 Kin. 3:11; Luk. 16:10
- ❖ Following properly enables you to exercise power under control through submission – Jas. 4:7; Heb. 13:17
- ❖ No one can properly lead who has never properly followed – Jos. 1:1-2; Mar. 10:43-45

The Life We Live is Based Upon the Choices We Make

- ❖ Some choices affect moments while others affect direction and destiny – Deu. 30:19; Pro. 4:25-27
- ❖ We can't control everything that happens to us, but we can choose how we respond – Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28
- ❖ The Christ-like life is built through intentional daily choices – Luk. 9:23; Rom. 12:1-2
- ❖ God places life and death before us as a choice – Deu. 30:19; Jos. 24:15

Lesson Points

1. Choosing Christ Means Choosing a Different Life

- ❖ Elisha had to leave behind what was familiar – 1 Kin. 19:20-21; Heb. 11:8
- ❖ Jesus' disciples likewise left nets, ships, and careers – Mat. 4:20-22; Luk. 5:28
- ❖ Following Christ requires intentional decisions – Luk. 9:62; Rom. 12:2
- ❖ Many people want the benefits of Christ without the lifestyle of Christ – Tit. 1:16; Mat. 7:21
- ❖ The Christ-like life changes how we think, respond, and live – Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:1-2
- ❖ Another example: Abraham left the familiar to follow God's direction – Gen. 12:1-4; Heb. 11:8

2. I Cannot Make Christ-like Choices if I Do Not Know Christ

- ❖ Relationship with Christ determines the quality of our choices – Phil. 3:10; Joh. 10:27
- ❖ Real discipleship is revealed during difficulty, not convenience – Jam. 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-5
- ❖ Your choices reveal the depth of your relationship with Christ – Mat. 7:16; Joh. 14:15
- ❖ Knowing Christ must go beyond emotional moments and church activity – 2 Tim. 3:5; Mat. 15:8
- ❖ We must know Christ in joy, discomfort, suffering, uncertainty, and correction – Job 13:15; Hab. 3:17-18
- ❖ Another example: Job maintained integrity during suffering because he knew God – Job 13:15; Job 19:25

3. The Christ-like Life Requires Submission

- ❖ Elisha served Elijah before leading publicly – 2 Kin. 3:11; 2 Kin. 2:9
- ❖ Jesus modeled submission to the Father even unto death – Luk. 22:42; Phil. 2:8
- ❖ Submission is strength under control – Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:5-6
- ❖ People who refuse godly submission often mishandle authority – Rom. 13:1-2; Heb. 13:17
- ❖ God develops followers before He develops leaders – Jos. 1:1-2; Luk. 16:10

4. The Christ-like Life Will Cost You

- ❖ Elisha destroyed the tools connected to his former life – 1 Kin. 19:21; Luk. 14:33
- ❖ The disciples left security to follow Jesus – Mat. 4:20-22; Mar. 10:28
- ❖ Jesus never hid the cost of discipleship – Luk. 14:27-33; Joh. 15:18-20
- ❖ Following Christ often requires leaving comfort and convenience – Phil. 3:7-8; Mat. 19:29
- ❖ Salvation is free, but discipleship costs something – Luk. 9:23; 2 Tim. 3:12