

UNLIKELY SAINTS

Elisha

1. Are you a person who gets excited about change and new opportunities or do you prefer the status quo and a comfortable routine?
2. Read 1 Kings 19:19-21. What do we learn about Elisha in these verses? What was his socio-economic status? What kind of relationship did he have with his parents? How did he relate with his neighbours? What kind of relationship did he have with Elijah?
3. What was Elisha's initial response to Elijah's invitation for him to become his apprentice?
4. Read 2 Kings 2:1-22. In verses 1-11, Elisha is informed several times (vss. 3 and 5) by others that "The Lord is going to take your master from you today". What is Elisha's response to this major change that is about to happen in his life?
5. In verse 9, Elijah asks Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" Elisha's response is "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit". Why do you think he makes this request? Is he asking to outdo Elijah by twofold or does he think he needs more power to be able to do what Elijah has done or is he seeking something of a more spiritual nature?
6. What is Elijah's response for Elisha's request of a "double portion of his spirit" in verse 10? What is the one requirement for Elisha's request to be fulfilled?
7. In verses 14,15, Elisha picked up the cloak (mantle) of Elijah and asked the question, "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?". How did God answer this question for Elisha? How did the company of the prophets from Jericho respond to this change in leadership? Did they encounter any dissonance in this new era of leadership?
8. Changing leadership is challenging in any organization. What are some biblical examples of a good transition to new leadership? Why do you think the transition was so effective?
9. What are some biblical examples of a disruptive or disastrous change of leadership? What led to the negative outcome of this plan of succession?