

## LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM ELISHA #2 “Leading Others to Victory”

2 Kings 2:19-22

*Looking at Elisha – how he dealt with people: Leadership lessons. Today: A leader needs to be able to lead others to victory.*

### I. CIRCUMSTANCES

#### A. We see the reality of life: Difficult situations

1. **2 Kings 2:19** *Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the ground barren."*

2. Negative circumstances that are standing in the way of blessings/God's will

a. The water is keeping us from fruitfulness b. The water is producing barrenness

#### B. This is true today: We all will face negative circumstances

1. Economy: There's no jobs/housing/buildings

2. Spiritual atmosphere: The people here are too religious/too sinful...

a. *Witchcraft: There's more witches here than any city in America...!*

3. Opposition: People who are blocking or resisting us

a. Government: Officials blocking us b. Religious: Churches/officials speaking against

c. People in the church are hard/carnal/unresponsive

#### C. Human nature: People begin to accept their current condition as being final

1. For some: It's their personality; *At least we're not doing as bad as the guy with no head...*

2. Some build a theology: They find scriptures that explain or excuse their current troubles

a. *Elijah in the desert/fertilizer ministry – for the future/small cities as a witness so He can judge*

1. *Eugene: Previous Pastor told people that they were called to remain a small church*

3. If we do this – things will never change for the better

### II. SPIRIT

#### A. A leader's job is to lead people into victory

1. **Joshua 1:6** *Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.*

a. A leader shows them how to drive out the enemy and possess what God has for them

2. This is actually a spirit: *How do you react when faced with negative circumstances?*

a. Elisha didn't crawl into the fetal position and cry "it's just so hard here"

1. *He didn't say bummer – you should just accept it and move away to a better place...*

3. He in essence said NO! This is unacceptable! We don't have to live with barrenness and bad water

a. A large part of faith is saying NO to things that don't line up with the will of God

#### B. Elisha was actually teaching them how to fight

1. He understood that their job was to use supernatural power to change negative circumstances

a. He led them into victory – changing things from negative to positive

1. *Footscray: The people had been told this place is bad/unresponsive – we should move. I refused, and led them into it being a very fruitful area; Absolutely not – God says every place the soles of our feet shall tread He will give it to us.*

2. Elisha learned this from His Pastor

a. **2 Kings 2:8** *Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.*

### III. PRACTICALS

#### A. We have to do more than rah-rah people: We have to give some practical steps to changing things

1. **V20 bring a new bowl:** Symbolic of making a new start

2. Bring some salt **V20 bring new bowl and put salt in it:** OT salt was the symbol of God's covenant with us

a. Every covenant has 2 parts: Our part – and God's part

1. **Believe God:** God says things can be new – do you believe it?

a. **Mark 9:23** *if you can believe – all things are possible!*

2. **Identify the problem:** This requires honesty – is there something we are doing that is hurting?

3. **Get serious about transformation:**

a. *Salt was very scarce/expensive: To throw all this salt away shows they were serious about it*

1. *What would you be willing to do to change things? To get a breakthrough?*

4. **Obedience:** They did what Elisha said; God only blesses obedience

B. We see God's response **2 Kings 2:22** *So the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.*