

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.*