

1 Kings 19:19-21
FOCUS

19a- "So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team.

-Elisha was an ordinary guy living with his parents working on a farm when God called him to do something incredible. He was a pretty average guy that called into leadership.

19b- Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away.

-Did you know that God has a plan for your life? That he has a purpose for you, that He has big plans and wants to use you in a powerful way at school, in your community, in your home, on your team, in your business and in the church?

##1- Will you accept the mantle. The calling, the purpose of your life in leadership?

QUESTION set #1-

1- What is the purpose of your life? Do you know why you are here on earth?

2- What are the top 2-3 things that God has called you to do?
What are your top 2-3 priorities in life?

3- Oftentimes God looks for people that are being faithful in their current situation to elevate to a position of higher influence and leadership. What does it look like to be "faithful" in the top 3 areas of your life?

-READ vs 20- Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you."

-Elisha had no details, no location, and no return date. He simply knew that God had called him to follow Elijah, so he went!

##2– You don't have to know all the details to obey immediately.

-Focusing on Jesus doesn't mean you'll have all the details.

-Leaders aren't the ones that know everything; just simply the ones that are willing to act on what they do know.

QUESTION SET #2-

1- Take a minute and write down what you DO know. What is your calling, your gifts, your talents, the opportunities that you have right now, and the doors that God has opened?

2- What excuses are you making that have hindered you from moving forward and using those things for God's glory? What else are you waiting on God to do before you take your next step?

-READ vs 21- So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

##3– In order to really focus on God, you have to STOP focusing on other things.

-The secret to focus is elimination.

-Whatever it is that is keeping you from focusing on God, burn the plow. Relationships, a sin in your life. Here's the danger though!

-Sometimes it's hard to burn the plows and kill the cows because those things aren't necessarily "bad."

-Even a good thing can be a bad thing when it holds you back from the best thing.

QUESTION SET #3-

1- What is stealing your focus away from God? It's time to burn the plows.

2- What is getting in the way of you growing in your relationship with God today? It's time to kill the cows.

3- What step do you need to take RIGHT NOW so that you can be ready to focus on God and do something incredible with your life?

-Everyone has heard of a to-do list. It helps you focus on what really matters for that day and makes you more productive. Instead of creating a to-do list, try a to-don't list.

-Ruthlessly eliminate the clutter and distractions so that you can focus on what God has called you to as a leader.

-Great leaders aren't the ones that are good at saying YES to things, they are the ones good at saying NO to things.