

"The Long and the Short of It" (It's Time to Agree with God) Week 6

Sermon Date 6/3/2017

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) Did you reach out to a friend this week, or did you make yourself available to mentor someone?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

The Goal

This week we are looking at another area we need to agree with God in. This is the area of trust. It could be argued that trust is the basis for all the other commitments we have discussed up to this point. For example, if I need to stop something I need to trust God to walk with me as I step out in faith. Trust is foundational to the Christian walk. Sometimes trust and faith can mean the same thing, depending on one's definition of faith. This week we will unpack the word *trust* and how Elisha trusted his call to be God's next prophet, leaving his family and occupation with no guarantees in order to follow God's call.

DIGGING DEEPER

1Kings 19:19-21 (NLT)

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

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.ⁱ

A note from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*:

19:19–20. **Elijah** returned from the Sinai peninsula to find **Elisha** (whose name means "My God is salvation") near his hometown of Abel Meholah (v. 16) in the Jordan Valley about halfway between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Kinnereth in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Elisha evidently came from a family that owned lots of land (as implied by the **12** yoke of oxen). **He** himself **was plowing** when Elijah **found** him. Throwing a prophet's **cloak around** a person symbolized the passing of the power and authority of the office to that individual. That **Elisha** realized the meaning of this act is obvious from his reaction. Immediately he started to abandon his former occupation and follow **Elijah**. **Elijah** gave him permission to say farewell to his family. The unusual reply, **What have I done to you?** is an idiom meaning, "Do as you please" or "What have I done to stop you?"

19:21. **Elisha** sealed his decision by slaughtering **his yoke of oxen** and burning his **plowing** implements. He evidently hosted a farewell banquet, serving his sacrificed animals to his guests for supper. **Then he set out to** accompany **Elijah** as **his attendant**.ⁱⁱ

- 4) What does Elijah do to Elisha to let him know he was going to be the next prophet?
- 5) What was Elisha's response?

He paused for a moment and then ran after Elijah.

- 6) Why is Elisha's pausing for a moment significant? What do you think?

He could have already been feeling the call of God in that direction, and he wanted to take a moment to reflect. Or maybe he needed to think about the implications of this calling for a quick moment. Nevertheless, it was not a long time, only a moment.

- 7) What did Elisha do in response to Elijah? How does this demonstrate trust?
- 8) What did Elisha not know about his call?

He really didn't know much. He knew who the prophet was, and he knew about him. He didn't know how he would live monetarily. He had to trust God's provision.

TAKING IT HOME

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.

⁶ Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.ⁱ

9) What does the word *trust* mean?

Webster defines it as:

1 **a:** assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something

b: one in which confidence is placed

2 **a:** dependence on something future or contingent: hopeⁱⁱⁱ

10) Is trust a feeling or a decision? Can I trust without *feeling* trust?
Trust is a choice, not a feeling!!!

11) What does the verse ask us to do with our own understanding?

12) Why is trust difficult?

Fear of the unknown and the need for control make it hard for us to trust God.

13) What areas in your life is God asking you to trust Him in?

14) What does "all your heart" mean?

15) What do we need to do when our feelings are telling us to do something other than trust?

Trust is rebar in the foundation of our faith. It is necessary for strength and a proper building. We need trust in all aspects of our walk with Jesus. Without trust in our lives we are just learning and never putting what we learn into practice. Without trust great things never happen. Trust is a choice on our part. It can exist when there is fear and doubt in our hearts. Almost four years ago I was called to quit my job and be an unpaid intern. Without knowing how it would turn out I accepted. I was afraid—it was a huge deal. Lots of questions came up, but it was one of the best decisions of my life. If I didn't choose to trust I wouldn't be here today.

16) Where is God asking you to trust Him? Is there something you need to trust Him in as you Start, Stop, Stay, or Go?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read 2 Kings 2-10 for the rest of Elisha's story.

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), 1 Ki 19:19–21.

ⁱⁱ Thomas L. Constable, "[1 Kings](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 529.

ⁱⁱⁱ Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).