



Elisha: Only God is Essential (2 Kings 2:1-17) Truth to Power (Part 6)

THE BIG IDEA

Only God is essential to God's work in the world. People are important, but only God is essential.

OPENING

- Describe an example of how our world treats some people as more essential than other people?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Bible scholar Beth Glazier-McDonald says, *"Portrayed as an individual of remarkable strength and energy, Elijah was active during the 9th century B.C. reign of King Ahab."*¹ How were Elijah's interactions with King Ahab characterized by remarkable strength and energy? (If you need a review, read 1 Kings 18:1-19, 21:1-28).
- Read 1 Kings 19:16-21. What do you learn about Elisha from this passage? How is 2 Kings 2:9 a fulfillment of 1 Kings 19:16?
- According to Marsha White, *"Elisha appears as an itinerant holy man, traveling from group to group and performing miracles in response to pleas for help from his poverty-stricken disciples. He heals a spring (2 Kgs. 2:19-22), multiplies a disciple's widow's oil so that she will not lose her children to a creditor (4:1-7), nullifies the poison in a stew so that his disciples can eat during a famine (4:38-41), multiplies 20 loaves to feed 100 people (4:42-44), and floats a borrowed ax that had fallen in the river (6:1-7). The common theme in these stories is Elisha's performance of actions that save his marginalized followers from material distress."*² How is this different than Elijah's ministry?

¹Beth Glazier-McDonald, "Elijah" *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Eerdmans Press, 2020), p. 395.

²Marsha White, "Elisha," *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Eerdmans Press, 2020), p.398.



- Why do people from the company of the prophets search for Elijah in vv. 16-17? How are people still looking for Elijah?
- Read John 1:21 and Matthew 16:13-16. Why would people think that John and Jesus might be Elijah?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Why do you think it is so hard to keep God first in life? What are some practical steps you can take to keep God first?
- Why do we tend to compare our spiritual leaders? How can we avoid doing this?

PRAYER REQUESTS