

HBC Sunday Morning
August 13, 2017
Are You Standing Afar Off!
II Kings 2:1-18

Introduction:

Many years ago when I was first called to preach I put together a message from this passage of scripture. I entitled it "To Far From The Fire!" I went looking for that old outline when I began to put this message together. But because it has been so long ago I couldn't find it, but the outline is still in my head. So with that outline in my head I set out to put together this message that I feel that the Lord wants me to preach today.

Here in this passage of scripture is a very powerful story that you have probably read before. It is usually called the translation of Elijah, but there is so many interesting things revolving around this event that many miss. One very interesting note is that as this story unfolds Elisha is back on the scene. Elisha was called by Elijah back in I Kings 19, now if you study this you will find that it has been about 10 years since then. So where has Elisha been? And what has he been doing? The answer is simple he has been doing what he was called to do and that was to serve Elijah. What an example for you and me to just find our place of service and serve, whither you get a pat on the back or not.

In our text there are three different people identified, Elijah, Elisha, and the sons of the Prophets. We know who Elijah and Elisha were but who were the Sons of the Prophets? If I could compare them to a modern day group we would liken them to Seminary students. These were Prophets in training and Elijah has been their teacher.

So in this message I would like to begin by examining our text closely and then contrasting Elisha and the sons of the Prophets. I want to contrast their reaction to this very important event, and then ask each of us to determine which one we identify with!

So let's look at 4 things that I see in Elisha that should be present in the lives of all frontline Christians:

1. Are We Anticipators?

Psalm 122:1; Acts 3:19; Luke 21:28; Ephesians 5:15-16; Galatians 6:9

2. Are We Participators?

I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 4:7; I Corinthians 9:24; I Corinthians 9:26

3. Are We Facilitators?

Matthew 14:28-29; John 6:9

4. Are We Demonstrators?

Acts 1:8; I Kings 18:39; I Peter 3:15

Now let's turn our attention to the sons of the prophets.

Again I see 4 things in their lives that will happen when a Christian when a Christian decides to view from afar off.

1. They Became Commentators!

Proverbs 25:11; Proverbs 18:21; James 3:5-6; James 1:26

2. They Became Instigators!

Proverbs 16:28; Proverbs 26:21; Proverbs 28:25; Proverbs 29:22; Hebrews 10:24

3. They Became Spectators!

Luke 14:23; Matthew 28:19-20; John 9:4

4. They Became Compensators!

Matthew 23:27; II Timothy 3:5; Matthew 6:24

Bro. Penny