

PLOW BURNING IN THE MEADOW OF DANCING

¹⁹ So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. ²⁰ Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” ²¹ So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

I Kings 19:19-21

- I. There is a changing of the guard.
 - A. God is fast approaching those he has chosen to elevate.
 - B. God is passing the torch to a new generation.
 - C. Elisha captured God’s attention, for he was willing to work with no immediate reward in sight.
 - D. Elisha was faithfully and monotonously plowing in his family’s field. He was covered in dust and manure with an unbroken view of only ox butts in all directions.
 - E. Elisha was serving while waiting for an anointing he did not yet possess. Have you been serving aware that something is missing and that you’re still incomplete? Hold on; help is on the way! (Matthew 6:33)
³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
 - F. Never seek things that can only be added. Be faithful to God where you are, and he will add what you need in due time.
- II. God is speaking your name 300 miles away.
 - A. While Elisha was plowing in complete anonymity, Elijah, the greatest prophet in the Hebrew scriptures, was being told to go and anoint him as his successor! (I Kings 19:15-16)
“...Go back the way you came...and anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.”
 - B. God is right now speaking your name to the right people.

- C. Abel Meholah means “Meadow of Dancing.” Only God can call the ox-manured training ground of your life a meadow of dancing!
- D. We await our final anointing to begin the dance, while being faithful in plowing the next right straight furrows.
- IV. When the anointing comes, difficult choices are pressed upon us. (I Kings 19:19)
- * Respond immediately.
- V. When the anointing comes, there will be painful separations. (I Kings 19:20)
- * A shift is coming and not all can go with you.
 - * Faithful and immediate obedience to Christ may lead us to do things those closest to us neither understand nor support.
- VI. Burn the plows and kill the cows!
- A. When Elisha’s moment came, he killed and burned anything to do with his former life.
- B. He counted the cost and removed all obstacles that could conceivably make him turn back.
- VII. When the anointing comes, decisive action is required. (I Kings 19:21)
- * It’s no time to linger when God has spoken. Cheer up, your new mantle is on the way!
 - * Elisha’s first experience with the mantle made him a protégé. His next experience with the mantle made him a double portion son!