

Pastor's Corner

What Can I Do for You?

April 22, 2009

Dear Friend,

This morning I was reading about Elijah, that mighty prophet of Old Testament times. God directed him to ask a young man named Elisha to work with him, and as the years passed Elisha learned a lot about the work of a prophet, and how to teach the people about God and His Word. Finally, near the end, when Elijah was approaching the end of his life work, God revealed to Elisha and the other prophets that Elijah was not going to die, but would be taken directly to heaven! This was something entirely new to everyone, since the only person who had ever been taken to heaven without dying was a man named Enoch, who lived more than 2,300 years before!

But it didn't happen right away. In fact, some time passed, and I'm sure it was getting a little tiring to live the life of a prophet, always going, always doing things for God. Finally, one day, Elijah turns to Elisha, his assistant, and asks him, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" Now that was a wide open question! Elijah was highly respected among the king and the other great men of the land. He was well known throughout the country. He had connections. And he wants to know what he can give to Elisha as a going away present. Now, it's important to note what Elijah *didn't* ask for. He didn't ask for wealth, or a high position. He didn't ask for health, or a long life. (Which, by the way, he didn't get. He served as prophet for over 50 years, then, after a long, painful, lingering illness, he died.) No, he didn't ask for any of these; he asked for only one thing. "I want a double portion of your spirit." What he was asking for was a closer experience with God. He wanted to serve God more. He wanted to let God use him. Even more than God ever used Elijah. In fact, he wanted to go all out, and he wanted the Holy Spirit to use him twice as much! Beyond anything that had ever been done before! And he got it! As you read over 2 Kings 2-8, you'll see the story of a man with a full life of service for God! He didn't have success as our society would define it, but he got to experience God and allow God to do miracles through him that had never been done before. David said something similar to this when he said what his goal was: "*One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*" Psalm 27:4

But let's go back to the question Elijah asked Elisha. "Tell me, what can I do for you?" Had you been asked this question, what would you have answered? What is the greatest desire of your heart as you engage in the service of God?

Have a great week, and remember, we're praying for you!

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