

TIMES OF CHANGES

A Lord's Flock Praise & Worship Topic

By: Fr. Alex Balatbat
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Elijah and Elisha were prominent prophets in Israel. Elijah means "my God is Yahweh" while Elisha means "Yahweh is my salvation. Both meanings were in the context of Yahweh's commitment to His people. As instructed by the Lord, Elijah anointed Elisha to succeed his leadership (1 Kings 19:16-21). Elijah followed the voice of the true leader, God the Father. This is true when leadership changes - the successor must follow the heart and mission of the master.



1. The hierarchy of leadership flows from God.

- 1.1. Elijah anointed Elisha by throwing his cloak over him. It was a divine action, as the Lord said: "You shall anoint Elisha as prophet to succeed you" (1 K. 19:16-19).
- 1.2. Similarly, whatever happens to the community will be according to God's will. Moreover, to hear God's voice, prayer is important. Jesus spent a night in prayer consulting His Father before He decided on the twelve apostles.
- 1.3. Any community will continue to be strong only if it remains rooted and obedient to God, whose heart is always focused on His relationship with His people. Hence, a true leader who is filled with God's grace will in turn forward this grace to the people.

2. Both the master and the successor must follow God's heart.

- 2.1. Elijah was committed to protect the beautiful relationship of Yahweh and His people - "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Exo. 6:7).
- 2.2. When it was his time to leave, Elijah was able to discern Elisha as his successor. It was a continuous mentorship by a teacher to a student as they journeyed together.
- 2.3. Elisha was able to read the heart of Elijah.

- 2.3.1. He was attentive to the prophet's movements and sensitive to his soul.
- 2.3.2. Elisha witnessed the courage of Elijah when he fought the four hundred-fifty false prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel.
- 2.3.3. Elisha also witnessed the fear of Elijah against Queen Jezebel when he escaped to the cave of Mt. Horeb and prayed for death (1 Kings 19:4).

2.4. Elisha asked Elijah for a "double portion of his spirit" (2 Kings 2:9-10). He asked for this grace to be able to faithfully fulfill his mission and responsibility. Elisha received the double portion, and he was able to perform many miracles in Israel (healing of the sick, feeding the hungry, making a widow's oil to fill many jars...). Thus, the spirit of Elijah remained alive through Elisha.

2.5. Today, when a community changes leadership, the next leader should be faithful to the prophetic message that was entrusted by God to the previous leader. The successor must know the heart of the leader, who is always following the heart of God. A leader cannot lead if the motivation is different from God's heart.

Conclusion:

God's presence must be rooted in all our hearts. Let us listen to God, not to ourselves. We must journey together, walk together, listen together, and be sensitive to the needs of one another.

Reflection:

1. What is God saying to you today? Is He still in your heart?
2. How are you doing in your ministry? What qualities of Elisha should you develop?

SCRIBES Ministry

Transcribed by: Leah Mariano

Edited by: Jo Advincula

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