

## LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM ELISHA #7 “Instruction and Development”

2 Kings 4:25-31

Here we see Elisha instructing a disciple how to be effective/how to have a miracle dimension.

### I. INSTRUCTION

A. In this story Elisha is giving instruction for miracle power

1. It's not fair to simply leave disciples to themselves without instruction
  - a. Some say: I had to learn the hard way...so learn it for yourself
    1. Not biblical: *Matt 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give*

B. Disciples need clear instructions

1. *2 Kings 4:29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."*

a. Urgency/priority/authority/practical instructions (*lay the staff on the boy's face*)

2. This was Jesus pattern of discipleship: A mixture of theology/practical instruction/hands-on involvement
  - a. Things you need to know for the future: Things you may run into at some point
  - b. How to do things now
  - c. How to fix what is not going well: *Why couldn't we cast it out?*
3. These form reference points: *Jesse Morales: I heard your voice in my head... this is what you do*
  - a. Gives the greatest chance of success

### II. DELEGATION

A. A man who has been trained needs to be given opportunities

1. *2 Kings 4:29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."*

2. This has risks: The possibility is that a disciple might not do it right (*But Elisha/Jesus allowed anyway*)

B. This shows us a truth about training men: You can't micromanage them:

1. You can't do it for them/You can't look over their shoulder – to make sure they don't do it wrong
  - a. *Is it about your ego – or is it about the disciple's development?*
2. Giving disciples the chance to minister (even if they might not succeed)
  - a. Trusting them with important tasks: *John 4:2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples)*,

### III. AFTER A FALL

A. We see something that is common: A power failure

1. *2 Kings 4:31<sup>31</sup> Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."*

2. We see Elisha's response: He apparently didn't give up on Gehazi

a. He still involved him: *V36 call the Shunammite* He wasn't banned for life/given up on

B. We also see Gehazi's response

1. What's amazing: No questions asked – WHY DIDN'T IT WORK?? WHAT DO I NEED TO DO??
  - a. Apparently goes back like everything's normal: I did it
2. Like many: Think they are supposed to look like they know what they're doing
  - a. Instead of finding out what they're supposed to be doing
3. Human pride: Unwilling to humble himself to admit a lack/admit a need
  - a. His Pastor – the premier prophet in the world; Knew how to release powerful miracles
    1. But he was of no practical help to Gehazi
4. He didn't have a heart to inquire – find out/ask questions/draw wisdom from
  - a. *Prov 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.*
  1. *I have watched men w/no great success spend time w/Pastor Mitchell and never ask a question – and tell him all their wisdom!!*

C. One manifestation of humility: Admitting our need through asking questions

1. *Mat 17:19 Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?"*

2. Many fear that asking a question makes them look stupid; *This is probably a stupid question...*

a. *I would rather look foolish by asking a question – and get the answer: Than look smart and actually be foolish!*

3. What questions do you need to ask? *How can I be fruitful? How can I fix my marriage?*

4. God gets involved here: His grace and blessing is on those who demonstrate humility

a. *1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*