

3. THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IS NEVER

A. Stay Faithful in the

“But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel’s servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.” (2 Kings 3:11)

Quote: “In the service of God nothing is little.”—C. H. Spurgeon

B. Dream Boldly for the

“And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.” (2 Kings 2:19)

Quote: “All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them.”—J. Hudson Taylor

CONCLUSION



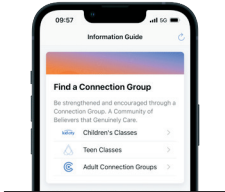
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MADE *for* the MOMENT

THE CALL TO SERVE

PASTOR LARRY CHAPPELL | JULY 19, 2026

Text: 1 Kings 19:19–21

“So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? 21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.” (1 Kings 19:19–21)

INTRODUCTION

1. GOD’S CALLING NEVER _____

A. His Calling Often _____ Our Plans

Quote: “Suddenness is the wrapping paper in which sovereignty sometimes arrives.”—**Dale Ralph Davis**

“Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.” (Exodus 3:1–2)

“And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.” (Judges 6:11–12)

“Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet’s son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: 15 And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.” (Amos 7:14–15)

“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:18–19)

B. His Calling Always _____ Our Identity

“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;” (2 Corinthians 4:1)

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

OBSERVATIONS ON THE MANTLE

1. The mantle is given before the work begins.
2. The mantle is worn silently for the season.
3. The mantle falls in the Lord’s timing.
4. Picking it up requires a public test.
5. The mantle can be worn well by someone very different from the one who gave it.

2. TRUE SURRENDER NEVER _____ OR _____

“And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. 62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:61–62)

A. Authentic Surrender Is _____

Quote: “Genuine faith in God creates a prompt obedience.”
—**C. H. Spurgeon**

Quote: “Elijah’s reply shows he hadn’t called Elisha himself—it was God’s call, not a personal claim on him.”—**Enduring Word Commentary**

B. Authentic Surrender Is _____

“Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.” (Mark 10:28)

Quote: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”—**Jim Elliot**

Quote: “The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world.”
—**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**