

MAY 25th, 1972

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Hymn...Scripture..Deut.34:5-12. Prayer.

1. In light of Scrip. read we already have before us crystal clear fact of prophetic succession. (Not apostolic succession!) Simply..Joshua succeeded Moses. Joshua not named as a prophet..but certainly prophesied.
2. And with FACT of succession established..in Scrip..and demonstrated in what we are doing in Bible Sch. training.. Look with me at vivid and precise example of this.. II Kings 9:1-6..10b. "Fled" out of Bible record. Who was he? Where flee to? There is no answer. Unknown soldier.
3. Per. this appeals to me as an older man..one of the semi-fossilized brigade! But anyone who looks with interest and concern on work of God is deeply aware of need of true succession. Elisha certainly was. Note these..:-
  - a. He did not go on this errand himself. Why not? Per. age (Not able run so well!) But most prob. this was part of training of a young man (so-called in vs. 4). Moreover this young man also called "one of the children of the prophets." Such groups referred to in II K. 2:3, 5. and appear to be Bible prototype of today's Bible Schools..where Y.P. trained. One at Bethel..one at Jericho. A.I(srael).B.C. This is what we do today. We do not go ourselves..to many places..such as far miss. fields. Here in Can. training Y.P. to go. And unless they go..we waste our time.(better)
  - b. Sending of this young man involved three matters.
    - First:- "Gird up thy loins"..PREPARATION. Again, this is our business in B. School. Peter said it this way: I Pet. 1:13. "Wherefore, gird up the loins of thy MIND." The mind needs to be trained..to be modern prophet of God.
    - Second:- "Take".."This box of oil in thine hand". POWER Whatever terminol. you may use..you must agree that work of God MUST be done in power of God..Empowering of His Spirit. Are we putting a box of oil in hand of young men? Oil of Spirit-power..Spirit-illum. that they can use to bring blessing to others? Illus:- Flying out of Kano.. Seeing compound after compound..One of most densely settled areas of Africa..How reach? ONLY BY POWER OF SPIRIT OF GOD Striking headline in "Internat. X'n B'casters Bulletin".. "SUPERPOWER, FOR THE IMCOMPARABLE MESSAGE." True..many way
    - Third:- I think of O.T. example of succession found in Deut.34:9.."Joshua, the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him."

Right  
last  
recorded  
Get  
before  
dead  
9:1,  
13:14

THIRD:- "Go". PERFORMANCE. Off to duty..loins girded..box of oil in hand. So we send out our grads..into the field that is the world..to serve..c/f Mark 16:15.."Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

c. And off he went...as our young people go from us.

and in vs. 4..he is no longer "one of the children of the prophets"..sent out by older prophet..but now called "The young man, the prophet." Full-fledged..into the work.

God give us a growing crowd like him! He was ready...a NEW PROPHET HAD APPEARED!

d. Now the last actions intrigued me. He was commanded..and fully obeyed that command..to "open the door, and flee, and tarry not." Why this?

I suggest FIRST:- The open door represented a path to new duties. He was "steadfast" but not "stuckfast"! When one task done..God has another one waiting. "There is no discharge in this war". SECOND:- The fleeing and no tarrying evidently means that he had to run away from something. What? Would the newly appointed and anointed Jehu have made him a cabinet minister..or P.M.?..or chief prophet of realm..Archbishop of Ramoth-Gilead?

SOMETIMES THE MAN OF GOD HAS TO RUN AWAY! If not, he may well rob God of the glory.. I have always respected two men for what insistently said.

Billy Graham. Think of him what you may..but especially in early ministry..he quoted this repeatedly..Isa. 42:8 "I am the LORD. and my glory will I not give to another." B'cast preacher..GM.Ward...always concludes with Zech.4:6 "Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." These men will NOT take glory to self.

Conclus:- May God guide all of us in these crisis days..that we may fit our own successors for the task...Help them GIRD up mind..TAKE God's box of oil..GO with the message, do the task...AND THEN MAY WE TEACH THEM BY WORD AND EXAMPLE..TO FLEE SELF GLORY..GIVE IT ALL TO GOD ALONE.

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Berean Chapel 009/73

Leslie B. Cless - June 25/72