A JOURNEY WORTH TAKING

No matter what our life experiences, we must choose to trust God's character and competence as He leads us on our spiritual journey.

KEY POINTS

- In 2 Kings 2:1-14, Elisha follows Elijah through four significant destinations, despite discouraging voices.
- **Gilgal** was considered a place of holiness. It literally means, 'circle of standing stones', 'rolling' or 'roll away'.
- There are two significant things that relate to Gilgal. First, that the hand of the Lord is identified as being mighty to save and to deliver. And second, the Lord 'rolls away' your past and separates you from 'your Egypt'.
- God is a forgiver of sins. Our innermost being is exposed to the light of God and He wants to create in us a clean heart and prepare us for life's journey.
- You can be unaware of God's calling or God's will for your life because your flesh gets in the way. We therefore must "circumcise our hearts" and allow God to take control of our lives.
- **Bethel** means "house of God" or "The presence of the Lord". There is something important about the house of God — the presence of the Lord is here, where troubles vanish, hearts are mended, there is liberty, healings take place, strength is regained, minds become focused, fear disappears and peace is released.
- There is a presence and a force here that is greater than any other. It cannot be conquered, has never lost a battle and has already overcome.
- Jacob said in Genesis 28:16, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I knew it not." Jacob was in awe. He had not been expecting anything from the Lord, yet there was an awesome manifestation of the presence of the Lord in Jacob's presence.
- We must always be in an expectant mode when we come to the house of the Lord, no matter how we feel or what is going on in our lives. God's presence is in His house.
- Does God have your attention when you come into His presence? He is always here. Have you given Him your best worship?
- Jericho speaks of a battle; of walls crumbling down and enemies around. We are not fighting the enemy alone. The battle is not ours; it's the Lord's.
- Therefore, we can worship our way through any problem, even an extraordinary battle that requires joint forces and "everyone on board".
- **Jericho** signifies a walk of faith. What God may ask of you in a time when walls overwhelm you may seem foolish, may not make sense. However, that walk of faith is a powerful walk, especially when you have others walking with you.

KEY SCRIPTURES:
2 Kings 2:1-14

- **The Jordan** signifies death and resurrection. It separated the children of Israel from the Land of Canaan.
- God separated the Jordan River and brought closure to a wilderness journey and the fulfillment of a promise.
- The Lord commanded Joshua to take twelve stones from the Jordan River as a memorial so that no one would forget what God did at the Jordan.
- The Lord also miraculously separated the Jordan River for Elijah and Elisha. Later, the Jordan was the place where John the Baptist baptized Jesus "to fulfill all righteousness".
- Beyond the Jordan is your spiritual destiny. Are you willing to trust God to bring you through?
- Jesus said in Matthew 16:24, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me."
- What is standing between you and your ministry, between you and your calling? What do you need to leave behind to get to that place of anointing?
- Your experience in Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho or Jordan can move you into your spiritual destiny, which is a journey worth taking.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Share a journey of faith where the Lord showed Himself faithful in leading you. What significant changes did you observe in yourself at the end of that journey?
2. What is your purpose in the Kingdom of God? Have you asked the Lord to remove every hindrance that stands in the way of you and your eternal destiny in Him?
3. Discuss a Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho or Jordan experience in your life.

Prayer Time

Lord, teach my heart to continue to trust You and Your ways. Enable me to be true to my calling in You, no matter my current station in life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

L.G. ice-Breaker: Now that Spring is here, have you consciously undertaken an activity that would give you at least an hour in the outdoors?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS