

God Didn't Call You To Quit 11-28-10

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Greetings in Jesus' Name.

1 Kings 19:19-21. Here we have Elijah who had just won a great victory over Baal, had ran away from Jezebel, had gone to the cave where God directed him and took care of him and spoke to him in a still small voice. He had been through a lot and gotten discouraged, even after this great victory, he had then become fearful.

1 Kings 19: ¹⁹ 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.

I want to mainly focus here on Elijah – he walked by Elisha while he was busy working out in a field with a crew ... he walked by and just threw his mantle over him, I don't know what that means, but Elisha immediately said 'I'll go with you but first I have a lot of stuff to do.' Do you know what Elijah did? He just kept on walking. Go back again, for what have I done to thee? He didn't go begging after him and make sure he followed in the right way. He didn't go chasing after him making excuses, trying to paint an easier picture for him. He didn't go crying after him and saying, 'Oh, I'll try to make it as easy for you as I can.' He said, "Go back .. what have I done to thee?" Go back! I've not got chains on you, a rope around you. Elisha knew what that mantle meant. We see later in the next book how important that mantle was and what it meant. It was his turn to carry the banner. Whenever he was passing the banner from one to another, he wasn't going to pass it to someone he was going to have to babysit because he knew that he was going to be gone one of these days. His time was coming to an end and he was not going to be there, so he just walked on.

Skip ahead a few hundred years to the book of John 6 – here Jesus is with His disciples. He had spoke some things to them.

John 6: ⁶⁰ Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard [this], said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? ⁶¹ When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? ⁶² [What] and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, [they] are spirit, and [they] are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. ⁶⁶ From that [time] many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

Will ye also go away? He didn't go chasing after them. He didn't go saying, "Oh we're going to make this road a little easier for you, come on back!" As far as we have here, when they chose to turn around and walk away, He let them go. And I don't see any place where Jesus went running after them to try to coerce them to come back. You find that theme throughout the whole Bible. We are not in a playground, we are in a battlefield. Whenever the battle gets tough and hard, I don't know about you, but if I was in the military and I was in a tight spot in a battle or war and was depending on someone to be right there with me fighting that war and I turned around and looked and all I saw was their hind end running for cover, I'd see a coward. I'd see a deserter. I'd see someone I wouldn't want by my side anyway, I can't trust them. Does that sound hard? Does that sound mean? Does that sound cruel? If I'm in a battle, I want someone I can depend on by my side. If I'm going to say, "I've got to get out there, cover me!" Do you know what that means? It means you stand up and start shooting to get their attention so I can run out there. You distract them and I'll get up a little

closer. I jump out into the battle and I turn around and look and you are running off the other way, scared to death. You have forsaken me, my friend. I could say, "Oh, poor so-and-so, he got scared and he run away." But I don't have time to do that because now all the enemy is focused on me. The one I was depended on has forsaken me.

Paul said in one place, "Demas hath forsaken me". He didn't say, "Poor Demas, it got too hard for him. Poor Demas, he got confused. I wish he was still here with us." He said, "Demas hath forsaken me", and that's just what he meant. We can have our hearts broken, and we do. In Acts when Paul had disputed about John Mark and he wouldn't let him go with him.

*Acts 15:*³⁶ *And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, [and see] how they do.*³⁷ *And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.*³⁸ *But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.*

Paul depended on these men that were with him to be faithful, and here's one who had left him before, right in the middle of the battle. He quit him. So when it come time to go again, Paul said, 'He's not going with me. He's not going with us. I can't trust him. When the battle gets tough, whenever it's right in the middle of the war, he's gone! He wants to go back. When it's time to get the work done, he's not there, I can't depend on him.'

*Acts 15*³⁹ *And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;*⁴⁰ *And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.*⁴¹ *And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.*

We are in a war, and it's hard ... and it's going to get harder if you stand. Satan is closing in on us. Jesus said that unless those days were shortened, even the very elect would be deceived. I cannot stand for you. I cannot stand for any one of you – it's all I can do to stand for myself. We've all got our hands full just being faithful. If you don't stand, it's because you aren't going to stand. Heaven is for those who have passed the test. Heaven is for those who have fought the battle and won. Revelation says and they overcame this world, they overcame Satan:

*Revelation 12:*¹¹ *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

They overcame. I told you I've heard people in churches – I grew up in church hearing men testify (men that were supposed to be the strong men in the church!) saying, "I just want to make it in by the skin of my teeth." Almost sends shivers up my spine. If that's all you want to make it in by, you just as well pack it up and forget it right now because you are trying to get in with as little effort as you can, and I'm going to tell you, you are not going to make it. Heaven is not for sissies. It's not for the weak. Not that any of us see ourselves as strong – it's for those who have determined in our weakness to put everything we've got into it. We are in a dangerous world. People take what we say and our signs and they look at it through a proud bunch of eyes and say, "Oh you just think you've got it, don't you? You are just proud trying to say you've got it and no one else does." That is the farthest thing there is from the truth. I know that what 99% of the world has will not make it. And I don't know how many among us will make it. We don't have it figured out! We are in a war, and all I know is what to warn people about is what will keep them out of heaven. These people who are so confident that they thin they've got it and they see our warnings as condemnation are a world away from knowing what this whole thing is all about. They are clueless of knowing what it is all about and how serious this battle is.

I get calls from people – I talked to a man just this week and he don't know what to do. He said, "I've been there. I've had it. I've been where I was supposed to be and now I am not there anymore. I don't know how to get back." Well I'm going to tell you, he's a lucky one because he cares. He's at least concerned that he's falling away – that's one in a hundred that's even concerned that they fall away. How many more have just fallen away and think they are still on their way? He said, "I've been there and I don't know how to get back." It's a whole bunch harder to have to go back than it is to be faithful where you are at and just press on.

The mantle that's being passed on has got to be taken up and held forth. When it's our turn to put the mantle up and hold it and take it forward, you are going to have to do it pretty well by yourself. Just hope that there's some support there beside you – someone else being faithful, someone else that you can depend on to walk beside you. Someone else that you can depend on to be right there whenever things get tough. Someone that you can depend on because we do need it. But if we are not there, if we are not where we are supposed to be ... if we go running whenever it gets too hard, who else is going to take off running. That's why in the military they try to make people quit. Gideon had 33,000 men I think. He said all of you who are scared or want to go back, go back right now. The majority of them left right then. And then he went through them again – he had another test. The ones that drank the water the way the Lord told him to watch, the way they would take the water and scoop it up and bring it to their mouth instead of getting down and drinking it another way, it eliminated a bunch more of them. Down to 300 men. But those were the ones that were going to be there, and that's what he was after. A big bunch of them just got scared and went away right off.

The modern church has become a place for people looking for teachers with itching ears just wanting to teach them what they want to hear. Nice things. Smooth things. Saying 'peace, peace'. The Bible says when that happens, sudden destruction will come upon them.

Part of being in a war is spending a lot of time in the camp preparing for the battle. How many people after setting for months just hearing about battles, waiting for battles, just get so tired of just waiting, but whenever the real battle comes, they are not even ready for it. The Devil has been at this battle for a long time. Don't deceive yourselves.

Luke 12: ⁴² And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom [his] lord shall make ruler over his household, to give [them their] portion of meat in due season? ⁴³ Blessed [is] that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁴ Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

There is so much out there that the Lord has for us. So much in eternity. So much more than what this world has to offer. The Lord will make us a ruler of all that He hath. When we stand before Him, to many He will say, "Depart from Me." But there will be a few to which He will say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." Dependable and loyal, trustworthy, going to be there through thick and thin. Boring times, he's there. Exciting times, he's there. Up on a mountain, he's there. Down in a valley, he's there. "Well done, he'll be there."

Will it be a mountain that's your biggest problem? Will it be a valley? Will it be an exciting time that gets you carried away into something else? Or will it be a boring time that you just get tired of the same old stuff and just fall asleep? What will it be? What's it going to take to knock you off of following the Lord? Good times or bad? Rich or poor? Strong or weak?

Luke 12: ⁴⁴ Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. ⁴⁵ But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; ⁴⁶ The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Here was someone who was there! But his final portion is with the unbelievers.

Luke 12: ⁴⁷ And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not [himself], neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many [stripes]. ⁴⁸ But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few [stripes]. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

There is going to be degrees on the judgment day.

2 Peter 2: ¹² But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; ¹³ And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as]

they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; ¹⁴ Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: ¹⁵ Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam [the son] of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; ¹⁶ But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. ¹⁷ These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. ¹⁸ For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, [through much] wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. ¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. ²⁰ For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. ²¹ For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. ²² But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog [is] turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

God has called us to be faithful. God has called us to a battle. He knows it's hard, you know it's hard, but He didn't call you to quit! He didn't call you to discourage your brethren by quitting. He called you to be faithful.

May the Lord add His blessings to His words. May He help us to be faithful, help us to be there – to be a rock, to be solid. When others may be falling away, be there. You don't know who you will help and if you fall away, you don't know who you will hurt. You don't know who you will take with you, but you will. You will. Somebody has their eye on you, counting on you to be their cover. Counting on you to be there. Counting on you to bring supplies. Just counting on you ... and if they look up and you are gone, that's just the last thing that they can take, so they fall away too. Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) Eternal life! We have found Him! Paul said, 'No one is going to take this away from me! Dangers, perils, sufferings, I've found it! And you are not going to take it from me.' May we instill that loyalty, that glory, that precious thing that God has given us – that we are not going to let anybody take that away from us.

Prayer – Father we come before you again and we just want to thank you for your goodness to us and your mercy. Help us Lord to be faithful in our weakness. Help us dedicate that to you that we may be found faithful on that day that you return for us or call for us. That we not be found slothful. In Jesus' Name, amen.

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In the warfare that is raging
For the truth and for the right,
When the conflict fierce is raging
With the powers of the night,
God needs people brave and true;
May He then depend on you?

Refrain

*May the Lord depend on you?
Loyalty is but His due;
Say, O spirit brave and true,
That He may depend on you!*

See, they come on sable pinions,
Come in strong Satanic might,
Powers come and dark dominions
From the regions of the night.

God requires the brave and true;
May He then depend on you?

From His throne the Father sees us;
Angels help us to prevail;
And our Leader true is Jesus,
And we shall not, cannot fail.
Triumph crowns the brave and true;
May the Lord depend on you?

May the Lord depend on you! The Lord's people are dependable people. Can He depend on you? Even just in the little things – can He depend on you? Can others depend on you? We ought to teach our children the virtue of dependability. That when it's time for them to do something, they do it. You don't have to tell them twice, that's their job – dependable. They have to learn it, it's up to you to teach them. That they can be counted on. Make them dependable. I'd rather them be dependable than know how to read or write. You can teach someone that's dependable. They can have all the skills in the world and if you can't depend on them, they are worthless. I've seen a lot of good people that can do a lot of things better than anybody I've ever seen, but you can't depend on them. Can the Lord depend on you to be faithful in the test? When no one else around you is dependable, are you?

Praise the Lord.