

### WEEK ONE: BURN THE PLOWS

Many of us know that God is calling us to something more, but we don't know where to start. Throughout this series, the challenge is to leave our lives of "good enough" behind as we embrace a life that is *greater*. To open the series, Pastor Steven used the story of Elisha to illustrate how God has issued three invitations to all of us:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 1 Kings 19:19-21, John 14:12.

GOD INVITES US TO...

- I. ...A HIGHER CALLING. (1 Kings 19:19)
  - a. "Most of us are not in danger of ruining our lives. We face a much greater danger-wasting them."
    - i. Elisha wasn't searching for greater when he was invited to a higher calling.
    - ii. Elisha was plowing his fields when Elijah's mantle hit him, signifying the calling God was passing onto him.
  - b. God's greater calling happens in a moment. But it's your response accepts this greater invitation.
    - i. Requires your willingness to follow a person, not a plan.
    - ii. God is inviting you to escape the same scenery of defeat, negativity, or even material possessions.
    - iii. This doesn't always mean doing something different, but perhaps living where you are with a greater passion and purpose.
- II. ...A DEEPER SURRENDER. (1 Kings 19:20-21)
  - a. When Elisha accepted God's invitation to a greater life, he left nothing for himself to go back to.
    - i. Elisha accepted God's invitation by literally burning everything that tied him to his previous life of "good enough."
  - b. God doesn't wait for you to be ready to accept the invitation to deeper surrender. He wants you to burn everything tethering you to the world behind you and fully trust in Him as you move forward.
    - i. Pastor Steven used the illustration of God calling him to burn his entire CD collection shortly after he was saved at age 16.
    - ii. There was nothing inherently wrong with the music itself, but it symbolized everything that was tying him to his old life.
    - iii. You must make the decision to leave the world behind you, placing the Cross before you.
  - c. What are the plows God wants you to burn?
    - i. Dependencies
    - ii. Ways of Thinking
    - iii. Bitterness
    - iv. Resentment
    - v. Excuses
- III. ...GREATER THINGS (1 Kings 19:21)
  - a. Jesus didn't say that we would do greater things than Him, but that we would do greater things through Him. John 14:12
    - i. He wants your open-ended obedience to say, "Yes, God, I will follow you."
  - b. Accepting the invitation to greater things starts with a decisive break with everything tying him to the life of good enough.
    - i. If God takes something from you or removes you from a situation that you thought was good to begin with, He is inviting you to something greater.
    - ii. God wants your open-ended obedience to follow Him.