

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

2 Kings 2: 1 – 19, Matthew 17: 1 - 13

1. Faith that stands firm to the end 2 Kings 2: 1 - 6

- Elijah's final days and he is still listening to God!
- A final journey to the prophets in Bethel, Jericho
- Stay here; the Lord has sent me to...
- Elisha wants to stick close to Elijah
- A journey out of the promised land

2. Miracles and a request 2 Kings 2: 7 - 12

- Elijah parts the Jordan.
- What can I do for you, before I am taken?
- A double portion of your spirit (Deuteronomy 21:17)
- 'If you see me when I am taken'
- Chariot and horses of fire – What a send off!
- Elisha tears his clothes and puts on Elijah's cloak

3. God doesn't give up 2 Kings 2: 13 - 18

- The Jordan parts again!
- The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha
- Let's look for Elijah

4. Elijah and Jesus Matthew 17: 1 - 13

- Elijah, Moses and Jesus
- Moses – the law we couldn't keep
- Elijah, the prophet whose voice was not listened to
- Moses and Elijah, two of the greatest figures in Israel's history (Deuteronomy 34:6)
- Jesus – listen to him
- Jesus is the Son of Man who will be raised from the dead.

Read 2 Kings 2: 1 – 6

1. Elijah's faith stands firm to the end. What can we learn from his life that will help our faith stand firm in our lives?
2. Elijah's visits to the prophets in Bethel and Jericho indicate that part of Elijah's ministry was teaching and encouraging the 7000 prophets who had remained faithful to God during Ahab's reign. Is this a role we should all be looking to engage in? Read Titus 2 1 – 10. How does this happen?
3. Why is Elisha so insistent that he remains with Elijah?

Read 2 Kings 2: 7 – 14

1. Why does Elijah strike the water to part the Jordan? Who else was involved in miracles like this?
2. Elisha recognises the presence of the Spirit in Elijah. In asking for a double portion was he being greedy? Read Deuteronomy 21:17. What does this imply about the relationship between Elijah and Elisha?
3. What is the significance of Elisha tearing his clothes? Has there been another occasion he has done something like this?
4. What is the significance of Elisha repeating the miracle of parting the Jordan River?

Read Matthew 17: 1 – 13

1. Why is this an important event in Jesus' life and ministry?
2. Were the Father's words for the disciple's benefit or Jesus'?
3. What is the significance of both Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus? What do we learn from this?

AMAZE THEM WITH GOD!