

*We come to the end of Elisha's life: Even when dead, he is still impacting/helping people.*

## I. THE POWER OF INFLUENCE

A. The great desire in life is that your life will count – make a difference

1. That our lives would matter to God – and to other people

a. That God would be pleased with our life b. That God's will was done through us

2. A great part of having a life that counts is having influence on other people

a. *Influence: To make a difference/to guide/to impact/to change...*

3. It doesn't come by accident

a. We find out what God wants in life/our lives b. We make deliberate decisions to line up with that

1. **1 Kings 19:21** *So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.*

B. We see the ultimate outflow of leadership: Influence that lives on

1. If all we can do is get people to do some right things while we watch them – we've failed!

a. *I can only be in 1 place at 1 time: Do the math – your life will be limited!*

2. Real impact comes in life through multiplication: Geometric multiplication

a. *If I can do so much... if I influences 1/they influence 1 each/then it multiplies!!*

C. 3 dimensions of influence

1. **You can influence people when you are not there:**

a. Elisha was not here – yet still making impact: *Our kids/new converts – wherever they are, impact is made*

2. **You can influence people in other places:**

a. If you put what you are into others – wherever they are, your influence is being carried

1. *I preach in multiple cities – all around the world: I have put something into others*

3. **You can still influence people when you are dead:**

a. Incredible: Elisha is dead – and someone is still impacted

## II. THE SOURCE OF INFLUENCE

A. Influence doesn't come simply through human effort: Demand/command that people be influenced

1. Elisha was dead: It's obvious he didn't have anything to do with this!

a. Had something inside – that touched someone else's life

2. True influence comes from getting God inside of us!

a. **Luke 24:49** *...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until you are clothed with power from on high.*

1. *Endued: Sink down into – soaked* 2. **Eph 5:18** *be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

b. Stephen: Full of the Holy Ghost – impacted Saul!

c. Woman w/issue of blood: Virtue went out from Jesus into her!

1. You have to believe God for it: 2. You have to contend for it:

B. A supernatural dimension comes through discipleship

1. You have to value the spirit of your Pastor – and cry out to God so you catch it

a. **2 Kings 2:9** *...please let a double portion of your spirit rest upon me*

1. This is the opposite of pride & independence: *I need what he has/I want what he has*

2. It is a spirit: It's more than a lesson

a. It has to be a priority b. You have to ask God for it

c. You have to look for it: Ask yourself – what is the heart behind the words or actions?

1. *What is the spirit my Pastor demonstrates in a given situation? How does he approach it/view it?*

d. You have to ask questions to make sure you understand: Can't reproduce what you don't understand

1. Asking questions is foundational to discipleship

a. The more you understand it – the more chance you have of it 'sinking in' to your spirit

## III. THE POWER OF INSPIRATION

A. Q: Why is this story in the Bible? It is to inspire us – so we will hunger for more

1. If God used a dead man - surely He could use living ones! *Dad – motivation ministry*

2. There is something powerful about our life causing someone else to want good things

a. *I want a marriage like that* b. *I want that spirit* c. *I want fruitfulness* d. *I want power/gifts*

3. Q: *Is there anything in you that inspires anyone else?* If not, why not? If not – get it!!