Elijah/Elisha #6 Pastor Rick Baker

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**Responsive Disciple or Taking Up Kingdom Space?**

1 Kings 19:19-21

Every year at this time of the year or a little later in churches all over the country, recruitment for ministry service hits a fever pitch. *The harvest is plentiful; the workers are few (Lk. 10:2).* Feels like the challenges are not unique to this era and space!

From the story of the one-two punch of the Elijah (*Yahweh is my God*), Elisha (*God is my salvation*) saga, we can pick up some important take-aways concerning God and recruitment to ministry roles.

1. God knows who you are, where you are, and what you are, and the Holy Spirit does the advance “head-hunter” work of recruitment sensitivity. ***Sense the call***

*“anoint Elisha” (19:16)*

*“What have I done to you?” (19:20)*

1. It always costs to follow (serve) God. ***Count the cost***

*“twelve yoke of oxen” (19:19)*

1. Serving God requires turning your back on earthly affections. ***Cut your ties***

*“slaughtered his yoke, burned his plowing equipment...” (19:21)*

1. People are the means to God’s ends; succession is God’s way. ***Prepare to be trained before you are in******charge****. Different people advance different purposes of God.*

*“he set out to follow Elijah and become his attendant.” (19:21)*

1. “Know how” comes from preparation and experience, but empowerment comes from the Lord. *Therefore,* ***everyone*** *can contribute something.*