Our scripture comes from 2 Kings 2:8-14. A pastor told his congregation to call him anytime for any reason. One night the pastor's phone rang at 3 a.m. On the other end, one of his members said, "Pastor, I have terrible insomnia." "I'm so sorry to hear that," he said, “but what can I do about it?" She said, “Well, you did preach the whole church to sleep last Sunday…”

**2 Kings 2:8-14 8Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled *it* up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” 10So he said, “You have asked a hard thing. *Nevertheless,* if you see me *when I am* taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be *so.*” 11Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12And Elisha saw *it,* and he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. 13He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 14Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, “Where *is* the Lord God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over**.

Elisha was Elijah’s disciple. In 1 Kings 19:16, God tells Elijah to anoint Elisha “as prophet in your place.” 1 Kings 19:19-20, we see Elijah pass Elisha in a field that Elisha is plowing and Elijah throws his mantle on him. The mantle, a loose fitting garment, was used to denote a calling of service or a covenant of service to God.

In this scripture this morning, we can learn four things about discipleship. A good disciple follows when called, always seeks Kingdom benefit, follows his Master closely, and accepts the responsibility passed to him. First – Elisha follows when called. 1 Kings 19:20 says that Elisha left the yoke of oxen he was using and ran after Elijah. Elisha knew what this mantle was – he knew who Elijah was – he knew what this represented – he ran after Elijah.

We’ve too must follow without hesitation. Being a disciple is learning all we can about the Master. Elisha left his mother and father, left his home, left all he knew to follow Elijah. In Luke 14:26 Jesus says If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. Jesus is saying that He must be first in our lives. Everything else must follow. We must have no gods before Him. He says – we cannot be His disciple if something or someone else is first.

Second – Elisha seeks Kingdom benefit. In verse 8, Elijah has just parted the Jordan Now, in verse 9, he asks Elisha - “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elijah, who has called down fire from heaven, anointed kings, stopped the rain, raised the dead, asks and Elisha responds, not with wishes for wealth, but he says, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” Elisha wants to benefit the Kingdom!

Do our prayers seek Kingdom benefit? In our prayer as disciples of Jesus, what do we ask for? Health? Wealth? Ease? Or do we beg that we have more of Jesus spirit inside of us each day? Do we beg that we become more like Him as we walk and talk?

Third, Elisha follows closely. In verse 10, So he (Elijah) said, “You have asked a hard thing. *Nevertheless,* if you see me *when I am* taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be *so.*”If you see me when it happens, you’ll get a double portion. If not, you won’t.

We too must follow our Master closely. So many today want the blessings of Jesus, the peace, the joy, they want their life to be like the life of Jesus, but they don’t really want to have to be present to receive the blessings. Jesus, could you just mail them to me? The blessing of Jesus comes to those who show up, those who are walking with Jesus close enough to see Him. As disciples, are we asking for Jesus spirit and then walking close enough with Him to receive it? Or are we off doing our own thing and wondering why the Master feels so far off?

Finally, Elisha accepts the responsibility. In verses 11 & 12, Elisha sees Elijah taken up to heaven. In verse 13, Elisha picks up the mantle that fell from Elijah. He is accepting the responsibility of the anointing Elijah placed upon him. In verse 14, Elisha struck the water just as his master had and it says - And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over. The disciple now mirrors the master.

We too are called to accept the mantle of Jesus. We’re called to love without condition, help without repayment, serve without appreciation, visit the prisoners, the widows, the sick, and the suffering. We’re called to carry on the work of the Master. John 14:12 says Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. We, like Elisha, must follow when called, always seek Kingdom benefit, follow close enough to see the Master, and pick up the mantle of Christ’s work with gladness. Our first and most critical work of discipleship is that of becoming Christ’s disciple!! In the great commission, we’re called to make disciples. We can’t make of others what we have not yet become ourselves.