



Elijah

Elisha asked for double portion? Of? Some ask for a double, double at a coffee shop. Two sugars and two cream. Elisha asked for double of what Elijah had. God, whatever you gave to him, I want more, double more. I start this way to say that Elijah is a special prophet. A man who was so blessed by God that someone wanted even more of it. This man lived a life full of miracles and constant peril. To top it off God swept him up into the sky in an epic fiery chariot. Elijah, the man of faith.

Is there a greater faith? I don't know but he lived like it. Great things come from Gilead. In the book of Joshua, the city of Ramoth in the land of Gilead was a city of refuge. A few judges came from this area. Then came the dark times. Ramoth-Gilead was against Israel. Then a very dark king began to rule in Gilead: Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel. At this time came a man from the same land. A man of God called Elijah.

Right from the start we are introduced to this prophet as a miracle worker, healer, and a man who was a prophet. Some prophets tell the future but this man spoke for God. By faith God put Elijah against the evil king. This is an epic encounter. The king Ahab claims that Elijah caused the drought in the land. Elijah (by faith) challenged 450 priests of Baal. God sent fire down and Elijah had the priest killed. Then came the rain. Elijah was warned that his life was in jeopardy but he met and challenged the king by faith. Like I said, Elijah had an epic life.

I had to realize that Elijah wrote no book in the Bible. Yet, he might be the most famous prophet regardless. This prophet terrorized the kings with the word of God. I love it that several people declared a death sentence on this prophet. In his weakness he tried to run off but God encouraged him to continue the fight. I find it fascinating that in the transfiguration of Jesus that the disciples recognized Elijah. There is some thought (in Jewish culture) that Elijah did not die because he was swept up into the air. In Malachi 4 there is a reference that Elisha will come back as a destructor. Jewish thought has Elijah coming before the messiah who will save them all. That is why John asked Jesus if he was the expected one. Yet, Jesus confirmed that John was Elijah in Matthew 11. To compound that, both men (Elijah and John) wore the same clothing and came out of the wilderness.

The point of all this is that Elijah is held in great esteem in Jewish history. By faith this man listened to God. He did great things in the name of God. Elisha asked for a double portion of what? Is it the miracles? The faith? The trust in God? The command of this man is outstanding. Fear but no fear. By faith he listened and acted. I feel that he had a famous saying "*as the Lord, the God of Israel lives.*" Having real faith means you give God all the glory. Elijah probably felt he was a servant or tool that God could use.

One of the greatest attributes of Elijah is his directedness. He would just say "do this." There was no if, and, or but. Just do it! This man was so spirit filled that his cloak raised the dead. Rivers parted and food and rain were restored. Kings feared him and his understudy wanted a double portion. The most stunning part to me is Elisha. He, indeed, gained a double portion. His acts as prophet are even more miraculous. Elijah's faith was passed on to another. What more could anyone ask for.

I am not sure if Elijah is John. The man in Malachi seems to be the messiah. Yet, Elijah is expected. I find it interesting that the disciples recognized Elijah and Moses in the transfiguration. Will we know everyone in heaven? I feel that that event was a message to us all. The prophets and messiah of the Old Testament meant something. Elijah was special as Moses was. In Jewish history they are waiting for the commander to save them. Many say Jesus is not that man. Some question if John was that man. I am sure a few think Elijah will return to be their victor.

By faith this man named Elijah rocked the Jewish world. He changed the landscape of Israel. In many ways he was a protector of that nation from bad rulers. His prophecy and advice stunned the nation. Paul in Hebrews 11 only mentions someone resurrecting the dead. Was it Elijah? I included this man because he did many of the things Paul mentioned. In a way he is the benchmark man of faith. Elisha would have said so. We all could walk in faith a little stronger like Elijah did.