

Our Unchanging God > 2 Kings 2:1-14

2:1-5 *Prepare for change.* We first see Elisha's loyalty to Elijah. He is given several opportunities to turn from following in his footsteps, yet he refuses to do so.

2:6-12 *Make the handoff.* Before Elijah is taken by the Lord, he asks what he can provide to Elisha to help him take up the responsibilities of being God's prophet. Elisha answers wisely.

2:13-14 *Trust the Lord.* Ultimately, the real test when it comes time for Elisha to return to ministry: does God's power and authority actually rest upon him? The parting of the river in exactly the same way as it did with Elijah confirms that the Lord is still at work even if the specific leaders have changed.

Context: Elijah has been a prophet used mightily of the Lord during a time when unfaithfulness was common across every level of society throughout Israel. Yet, as with any human, his time was coming to an end. Just as with Joshua and Moses earlier, who would step into Elijah's shoes?

Argument: God's plans are bigger than any one person's – even a wonderfully faithful person whom we think could never be replaced.

Gospel: Christ Himself transitioned the ministry from His own personal example onto sinful disciples in the early church, yet this was always the plan and is exactly what the Lord intended. And God's plan has proven good for all peoples!

Applications: Times of transition are times of learning to care for Christ's church and times of trusting in the Lord of the church more than in our own "heroes" or preferences.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
