

# Impacting a Changing World

## Passing the Torch

### I. Introduction

- A. What are the things that really shape your life -- the things that help cause you to be you?
1. II Timothy 2:1-2 (NLT) *<sup>1</sup>Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*

### II. How Does a Torch Get Passed?

A. Prayer

1. I Kings 19:15-16 (NLT) *<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD told him, "Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there, anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. <sup>16</sup>Then anoint Jehu son of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-meholah to replace you as my prophet.*
2. El -- god
3. Yah (Jah) -- Yahweh
4. Elijah -- The Lord is God
5. Elisha -- God is salvation

B. Build into that person

1. I Kings 19:19-21 (NLT) *<sup>19</sup>So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. <sup>20</sup>Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you." <sup>21</sup>So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.*
2. "Never insult someone by asking them to do an easy job." (Max Dupree)
3. I Kings 19:21c (NLT) *Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.*
4. "Do I have a teachable spirit?"

### C. Pass the torch

1. II Kings 2:1-2a (NLT) *<sup>1</sup>When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>And Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has told me to go to Bethel."*
2. II Kings 2:2bc (NLT) *But Elisha replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you!" So they went down together to Bethel.*
3. II Kings 2:9a (NLT) *When they came to the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken away."*
4. II Kings 2:9b (NLT) *And Elisha replied, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit and become your successor."*
5. II Kings 2:10 (NLT) *"You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah replied. "If you see me when I am taken from you, then you will get your request. But if not, then you won't."*
6. II Kings 2:11-12 (NLT) *<sup>11</sup>As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father! My father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!" And as they disappeared from sight, Elisha tore his clothes in distress.*

### III. Conclusion

#### Upcoming Messages:

**4/27-28/2013 – "Becoming a Difference-Maker"**

**5/4-5/2013 – "Follow or Admire?"**