

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 106)

LESSON 29 (MINI-EPIISODE)

“He Took Up ... the Mantle of Elijah”

Hook	The readings in this lesson provide a mix of miraculous and mundane—a chariot of fire transports Elijah and Elisha makes an axe head float, but the secret to Namaan’s healing and Gehazi’s downfall lies in the simple daily things.
Goal	
Overview	
Conclusion	

Correction to consider (that prompted these “skipped episodes”)

I know you are addressing this, but you have fallen so far behind, that the podcast is becoming useless for preparation BEFORE I teach my lesson.

I would prefer that you just skip a lesson rather than try and hit the whole curriculum, but not do it in time. There is no way I can digest 3 hours of podcast, and try and include additional insight in my lesson if the podcast is posted the day (or even evening) before.

Thanks for all you do!

- 29: Prophetic Succession
- 30: Temple
- 31: Wisdom
- 32: Job
- 33: Jonah, Missionary Work

**Manual Goal:** To help class members understand how the authority (mantle) passes from one prophet to another, to encourage them to obey the words of the prophets, and to assure them that the power of God is greater than any other power.

**EGD Goal:** Class members should appreciate how small daily tasks can produce miracles, and be comforted with the knowledge that we have greater support than we sometimes understand.

Teaching Suggestions:

- Prophets: continuity and change (all prophets have the same mantle of authority, but they have different life experiences, emphases, perspectives, strengths and weaknesses)

- The “some great thing” point in the story of Naaman is in my opinion the most important. Life is full of little, daily things. Lives are transformed and miracles happen, character changes through little things done over time. (expand) (We want to be leaders, or amazing spouses or parents, or super healthy, or successful professionally. All these things and more stem from simple daily choices over time. I can bear testimony of this type of miracle.

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Narratives Covered: 2 Kings 2; 5; 6

- Elijah ascends to heaven in a chariot
- Elisha takes upon him Elijah’s “mantle” (after disobeying his vehement instructions; interesting to note Elisha’s flaws, which are passed over in the manual) (also, crazy story about two mama bears killing 42 boys for calling Elisha “bald head”)
- Healing of Naaman (Great story to focus on)
- Gehazi’s greed (good application here as well, cautionary tale. Do we pass our own judgments on others, and perhaps even try to make things more difficult for them if we feel they have gotten off to easily? Do we use our opportunities for our own gain?)
- 2 kings 6:16 “Those that are with us are more than those that are with them” (angelic hosts)

Discussion Points:

(we talk about Elijah and Elisha and that is how we get the term “prophetic mantle”, but worth noting that otherwise there is little sign of a line of prophets in the Bible... worth bringing up?) (“aderet” is not just a cloak, but a sign of status. The word means “splendor” and things such as a robe of state or fur coat, and is applied to prophets at several points (Zech 13:4; 1 Kings 19:13-19)

Resources:

<http://www.mormonsundayschool.org/062-brigham-young-and-the-succession-dc-and-church-history-33/>

<https://byustudies.byu.edu/showtitle.aspx?title=5216> (Quinn’s article on the succession)

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-03-074-naaman-and-elisha?category=old-testament/joshua-song-of-solomon&&lang=eng&order=chronological>

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2001/10/some-great-thing?lang=eng> (President Faust)

“When we render any service in the kingdom—be it teaching a ... lesson or dry pack canning at Welfare Square—it will be of much less value to us if we only see it as a ‘To Do’ item. ... But if we visualize ourselves laying on the altar to God our talents or our time commitment, such as in attending an inconvenient church meeting, then our sacrifice becomes personal and devotional to Him.”<sup>14</sup>

A story shared by our beloved associate, Elder Henry B. Eyring, illustrates this principle of commitment still further. This story is about his father, the great scientist Henry Eyring, who served on the Bonneville Stake high council. He was responsible for the welfare farm, which included a field of onions that needed to be weeded. At that time, he was nearly 80 and suffering from painful bone cancer. He assigned himself to do weeding even though the pain was so great that he pulled himself along on his stomach with his elbows. The pain was too great for him to kneel. Yet he smiled, laughed, and talked happily with the others who were there that day weeding that field of onions. I now quote what Elder Eyring said of this incident:

“After all the work was finished and the onions were all weeded, someone [said to] him, ‘Henry, good heavens! You didn’t pull *those* weeds, did you? Those weeds were sprayed two days ago, and they were going to die anyway.’

“Dad just roared. He thought that was the funniest thing. He thought it was a great joke on himself. He had worked through the day in the wrong weeds. They had been sprayed and would have died anyway.

“... I [asked] him, ‘Dad how could you make a joke out of that?’ ...

“He said something to me that I will never forget. ... He said, ‘Hal, I wasn’t there for the weeds.’”

We do not prove our love for the Savior only by doing “some great thing.” If the prophet personally asked you to go on a mission to some strange and exotic place, would you go? You would probably make every effort to go. But what about paying tithing? What about doing your home teaching? We show our love for the Savior by doing the many small acts of faith, devotion, and kindness to others that define our character.