



"A Time to Leave"

By Elizabeth Walker, Union Chapel Deacon

Reading: 2 Kings 2 1-12 The Story of Elisha and Elijah, Faith and Relationships

Reflecting on what that might mean to us in our lives today.

Like Elijah, we all face those moments when we must move on. There is a period of transition when we contemplate leaving what is familiar and venture forth into new territory. We may feel reluctant to go, having fears and doubts, or we may want to move on quickly and feel frustration at having to go through tiresome preparations before our departure. We may feel the burden of responsibility for those we leave behind.

Our feelings are important as they are an indication of which tools we need in order to move on. Do we need courage, strength, patience? We might ask in prayer for the tools we need.

But when the time comes to leave, we honour the moment for as the sun sets, it rises again for a new day. We give thanks.

Elisha – Being Left

Poor Elisha! How hard it is to be left behind, especially when there is such a hard act to follow.

Mostly we are happiest within our comfort zone, with those we love and trust around us. We see into our future and make plans and think we are in perfect control. Then change confronts us and all is in turmoil.

Being human means we are often prone to complicating our lives by thinking too much about all the 'what ifs'? Am I able?

Elisha knew that Elijah was going to leave and tried to cling on to him, but the moment came, as it does.

Acceptance of what is, is faith. That we are as God made us, strengths and weaknesses and that within us is the ability to cope with what is placed before us.

The advice from Elijah was, 'Keep your eyes open, be aware and I will pass on all you need to work your magic, but if you close your eyes, you will not get what you ask for.'

The tools we need are there for us but we do need to ask and we do need to keep our eyes open to what life has to offer.



Crossing the Jordon – passing on the mantle

The transition is important here because it shows that each of us, though on our own personal journey, is a part of a wider story involving others.

We cannot exist without impacting somehow on the world around us and with awareness what we leave behind is our legacy. Within our family, our job, our neighbourhood, our church, our presence is felt.

We must remember however that all is transient and it is of the moment.

Enjoy those things which are good and bear the hardships, then let go, for they are just one part of a journey. Whatever the moment, with all its importance, it too will pass.

We are given the mantle and, in time, we pass it on.