**Elijah Committed ° Courageous ° Common Week 10**

Text: 2 Kings 2:1-14

Back in 2004 Country music singer Tim McGraw released a hit song called “Live Like You Were Dying.” The song focuses in on a man who received life altering news of a terminal illness and how it changed his perspective on life. When confronted with his own mortality he suddenly sees the need to live life to the fullest and is driven to do the things he’d always wanted to do but had never followed through with. The chorus of the song says “*I went skydiving, Rocky Mountain climbing, 2.7 seconds on a bull named “Fu Man Chu,” and I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter and I finally gave forgiveness I’d been denying and he said “someday I hope you get the change to live like you were dying.””*

For years after this song was released I would risk life and limb to change the radio station when it came on. It was depressing – or so I thought. But there’s a great message within those lyrics and it should serve as a reminder that tomorrow isn’t promised and as a result of that, we should live every day to the fullest as we fulfill the calling the God has placed on our lives.

What is that calling? Well, it looks different for all of us. We are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters. We are managers, real estate agents, farmers, laborers, volunteers, teachers, retirees, etc. We are disciples and we are disciple makers. Whatever our profession or family status, we have all been called to be agents of the Gospel and in all of these things, we are called to be faithful.

**I know that on the level of Earth it might seem depressing, but have you considered what you would do with your last day here?**

This week we come to the end of our time with Elijah and as we read on Sunday, that day seemed a day like any other. It had become known to Elisha and the prophets at the various schools that Elijah would soon be leaving this earth. With that foreknowledge, we get a special glimpse into the last hours of Elijah’s life on earth. How does he spend them? Well, from the text that we saw on Sunday, it looks like he does what he’s always done. Nothing radical, nothing unorthodox, nothing out of the ordinary. He makes his rounds to the schools of the prophets, he walks with Elisha his disciple and asks him a question that really gauges the condition of his heart.

From these verses we see a couple of important things. First off, we see what is truly of importance to Elijah. **Ministry**. We also see through Elisha’s response to Elijah’s question what is truly of importance to him. **Ministry**. This was the calling for both of these men and it is what they were going to do regardless.

Consider what your response would be if someone close to you asked you “what can I do for you before I leave this Earth?” I fear that my first response would be something to the extent of “well, you could will me your home or land or gun collection or car collection or…..etc.” Isn’t that such a carnal answer? Elisha doesn’t ask for any of that – he says “I want to be as effective for God as you have been. I want that same Spirit to rest on me.”

Both of these men teach us valuable lessons in this text and both deal with the importance of furthering God’s work and purposes above our own. And this mentality only drives those who really see beyond this body of flesh that we live in and realize that this isn’t all that there is. The flesh desires to be happy and content here on Earth, but the spirit desires something not of this world.

Dr. Dan Allender and Dr. Tremper Longman co-authored a book called “Bold Love,” and there is a statement in that book that I feel does a pretty good job of describing the direction of our hearts. They say *“It seems that most of my life is sacrificed protecting and enhancing a home that is supposedly not my home. I still read self-help books on parenting, hoping someone will finally tell me how to parent correctly so that my children and I can avoid the sorrow of life. I often listen to sermons with the same energy (“tell me how to make this life work better”). The root desire behind our propensity to find concrete, manageable steps for living the Christian life often boils down to a demand to find order, predictability, and consistency in a world where there is little to none. How would you answer the questions, “Do I live for heaven?” or “Do I live demanding that life be like heaven?” Your answers will determine what you will spend your life fighting for.”*

**What is the desire of your heart? Where is your treasure? What do you hope to get out of this life?** All these questions (if we are honest) can give us tremendous about ourselves. They are hard questions, but they are necessary questions. If we aren’t intentional about the life we live, then one day we’ll find ourselves looking back on a lifetime of regret.

We all know that we are mortals of flesh and blood and as a result of that, we are all breaking down physically until one day our earthly bodies fail us. I don’t mean to sound morbid, but we’re all dying – we ought to live like it.

**Memory Verse**: **18**while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. – 2 Corinthians 4:18