Crossing the Jordan ii

 “Contentment with earthly goods is the mark of a saint. Contentment with our spiritual state is a mark of inward blindness.  Orthodox Christianity has fallen to its present lower state from lack of spiritual desire.  Among the many who profess the Christian faith, scarcely one in a thousand reveal any passionate thirst for God.” (A. W. Tozer) Elisha was not content to stay where he was but kept pressing forward to the full anointing. Elisha said to Elijah, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” Let’s press into more! Let’s go the distance and possess all that God has for us!(Philippians 3:12-16)

# 2 Kings, Chapter II

1) Gilgal is the place of separation and new beginnings – vs.1-2 (Move past the baby phase)

* Gilgal is the place where Israel camped just after crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land. The reproach of Egypt was rolled off and they were now separated from the world.
* This is when we are first born again and God begins separating us from worldliness. Let’s move forward from the baby stage to learning to hear from God and recognizing His presence –

Hebrews 5:12-14

2) Bethel is the House of God, hearing from God, and the presence of God – vs.2-4 (Move past religion and making an idol of past moves of God)

* Bethel is the place where Jacob had a dream of a stairway to heaven. God affirmed His covenant with Jacob there and anointed a rock and called the place *The House of God* (Bethel).
* It later became a place of idolatry for the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Folks can camp on past experiences and moves of God and not progress. We can settle in with religion, or we can grow in relationship with the living God – Psalm 63

3) Jericho is where we learn to overcome through faith and obedience – vs.4-5 (Move past overcoming faith to a place of service)

* Joshua and Israel experienced their first great victory at Jericho. God had given strange orders to march silently around Jericho and shout on the seventh day. Faith obeys and faith is careful of its confession – 1 John 5:4-5, 2 Corinthians 4:13
* Learning to live by faith is not the end all. We must move on to a greater anointing; we must seek the greater gifts so we can serve the saints and the world. There is a greater death required to experience the fullness of blessing. We must cross the Jordan.

4) Jordan is a death and resurrection; a renewed deeper consecration is required to go the distance – vs.6-15

* Many are called but few are chosen. To get from being called to a separation to that call we must cross the bridge of faithfulness. To stay fresh and flourishing at times requires a death to self – Matthew 16:24-27
* Elijah is a type of Jesus going through death and resurrection (crossing the Jordan). Before Jesus ascended to heaven He promised the Holy Spirit and that we would do greater works – Jn.14:12