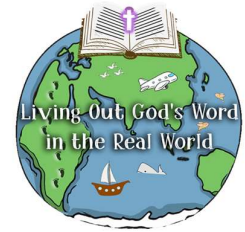


**PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH**  
*LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE*



**Sermon Date: 6/1/19**

**Text/s: 2 Kings 2:15-25**

**Title: A New Beginning**

**Preacher: Ps Jacob**

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

**READ (5 mins)**

(Read the Bible text/s, quietly or aloud)

**REFLECT (20 mins)**

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text/s)

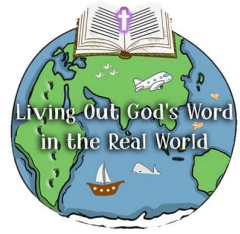
Questions for discussion:

1. v.15-18: Elisha and the sons of the prophets came to an impasse as the latter insisted on finding the body of Elijah. Do you think Elisha as a new prophet handled it appropriately or should he have insisted on his way? Why?

**Additional notes:**

According to Israel's tradition, it is dishonouring to the deceased and the soul of the deceased will be in turmoil if there is no proper burial. Hence Elisha was ashamed and allowed the sons of the prophets to search for the body, despite knowing that it would never be found. He understood the reason behind their desire and gave in to them.

2. v.19-22: "Water was bad, and the land was unfruitful", it was an impossible situation that Elisha encountered. We know that Jericho was cursed and was only recently rebuilt (cf. 1 Kings 16:34). This could explain the condition of the land and its water. Yet God showed mercy to the people of Jericho through Elisha's miracle. What does this tell us about God?
3. v.23-25: The boys, apparently they were youths/young adults, insulted Elisha and God in particular. (a) Do you think that God was being too harsh on them? Explain.



*Additional notes:*

The youths may well represent Bethel which was the headquarters of idolatry and the main seat of Baal worship in Israel at that time. The attack of the bears was a merciful warning should Israel choose not to repent. In 721 BC, the Assyrian army conquered the Northern kingdom and the 10 tribes of Israel went into exile and never returned till this day.

The young men in asking Elisha to 'go up' might be telling him to go up to heaven in the manner of Elijah, which was tantamount to asking him to get out or cursing him to die. In despising God's servant, they were despising God's warnings against idolatry foretold through His servant which, at its roots, signalled a disregard of the covenant that God had established with the nation.

(b) Does Elisha's action give us license to curse someone who insults God? (cf Luke 6:28, Romans 12:14 and Romans 12:17)

**RELATE (20 mins)**

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

Impasse with others, impossible situations, and insults are challenges we will encounter when living out God's word in the real world.

1. In this new beginning of yours, do you find yourself in any of these: impasse, impossible situations, and insults, and have difficulty living out God's word? Take turns to share with your group.
2. God showed mercy to the people of Jericho by performing a miracle through Elisha. Is God calling you to show mercy and be His miracle to someone this week (at home, work, school, or in church)? If possible, share the name of this person and pray for him/her in the group.

**REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)