

BURNING BRIDGES BEHIND US

Reference: **I Kings 19:19-21**

Pastor Larry Webb

Elijah was told to find Elisha and anoint him to succeed himself as an Old Testament prophet. Elijah did as he was instructed to do; but then discovered that Elisha had a question.

verse twenty, *“And he (Elisha) left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, ‘Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.’”*

Elisha wanted to first go home and say goodbye to his parents before going to assist Elijah. That request would have been unacceptable to Jesus in the New Testament

Reference: **Luke 9:57-62** (see screen)

But Elijah gave Elisha permission to go home first because he suspected that Elisha had a special reason for doing so.

verse twenty-one, *“So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. **Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.**”*

Elisha destroyed his farming tools and animals for two reasons:

- to _____ in _____ before his friends and relatives how sincere he was in resigning the farm to become a prophet
- to make it almost _____ for him to go back to the farm

The point of this narrative is that Elisha _____

Notice three basic burning bridges principles:

One a bridge might _____ something sinful in and of itself

Two a bridge for _____ might not be a bridge for _____

Reference: **Romans 13:14** (see screen)

Three bridges sometimes need to be burned for someone to be _____ to Jesus Christ

Reference: **Acts 19:17-20** (see screen)

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