

Elisha, the Bears, and the Rude Boys (2 Kings 2)  
9/4/22, GCC, Morning worship

**Introduction**– “If it’s weird, it’s probably important!”

- I. **Elisha takes the Mantle from Elijah** (2:1–18)
  - A. Significance of Bethel (Amos 7:13)
  - B. The Matter of Prophetic Succession
  - C. **Application:** *God is present in his Spirit and His Word and not in personality*
  
- II. **Reversing the Curse in Jericho** (2:19–22)
  - A. Significance of Jericho (Josh 6:26; 1 Kgs 16:34)
  - B. Elisha as the New Joshua–Cleansing the land
  - C. Elisha as a type of Jesus Christ–Reversing the Curse
  - D. **Application:** GOD CAN REVERSE THE CURSE of JUDGMENT!
  
- III. **Bringing Judgment in Bethel** (2:23–25)
  - A. The Polemic of “they *went down* to Bethel” (see 2:2; cf. 2:23)
  - B. Are they really “boys?” NO!
  - C. They are a *physical* threat
  - D. They *mocked* the prophet *and* His God
  - E. They were *calling into question* the *omnipotence* of YHWH
  - F. The *Punishment* Fits the *Crime*
  - G. **Application**
    1. God is not mocked, what you sow is what you reap!
    2. God’s messengers aren’t simply here to get you to heaven; they are here to keep you on the narrow path so that God’s temporal judgment or discipline does not afflict you.

**Questions for Application and Discussion:**

1. “God is present in his Spirit and His Word and not in personality.” How does this effect the way we attend to the ministry of the word? What are some signs that we might be listening *more* for a personality *than* for the Spirit of God in His word?
2. “God can reverse the curse of Judgment!” How is Elisha’s reversal of the curse of the water a picture of the gospel? How does the gospel make you ‘clean?’ How is that comforting?
3. “God is not mocked, what you sow is what you reap!” Why is it foolish to discount or ignore the message of God’s messengers? Are God’s messengers *only here* to help you get to heaven? For what other reasons has God placed them here?