

Suddenly, Life Changes...

Suddenly life changed forever.....

Life can change without warning, abruptly. A cousin word to suddenly is instant!

Psychologists have this rule: S.E.E. = Significant Emotional Event.

An event that forever changes ones life script and how information is processed that effects our quality of life, good or bad.

Spanking, touching a hot stove, car wreck, accident, incident, gunshot.

Creation: When there was nothing, there was God.

Then God spoke...Gen. 1:3. Suddenly everything changed. God spoke nine times in the first chapter of Genesis: light, heaven, earth, plants, stars, birds, animals and man.

Suddenly there was an universe with things: some inanimate, some living.

Adam: “She ate, He ate”

Suddenly, God spoke, “Adam, where are you?” Suddenly the world changed!

Life was overcome with death.

Health was overcome with disease.

Bliss was overcome with despair.

Noah: “Build an ark!” Gen. 6.

Suddenly, Noah’s purpose in life changed. Social life was changed. His occupation changed

Abram: “Go forth from your country.” Gen. 12.

Suddenly, life took on a new meaning and direction. The comforts of home became a memory. He was separated from most of his family and friends.

Joseph: “Here comes this dreamer.” Gen. 37.

He thought it was only a routine mission for his dad, but suddenly, he was thrown into a pit by his angry brothers and sold as a slave into Egypt.

Moses: “Moses, Moses!” Ex. 3.

Suddenly, a penetrating voice from a burning bush was heard, and his world was turned upside down for the second time and he was thrust back into the country where he was wanted for murder to lead a nation to a promise land.

Job: “Consider My servant Job, a blameless and upright man..”

Suddenly, life changed for this prosperous man of the East, and in one day, he lost his possessions, family and health.

“Sabeans attacked”(oxen and donkeys)

“Fire fell”sheep

“Chaldeans raided”camels

“Wind came”family

Ezekiel: “Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem...”

Suddenly the life of the nation changed..

Ezekiel, 26 years of age, preparing to enter the priesthood, was taken captive and he was never again to physically see the Temple. He changed from being trained as a priest into an uncompromising prophet.

David: “Samuel anointed him..”

Suddenly, the Spirit came on him and he was never to live an ordinary life of a shepherd again, but entered into an unbelievable struggle for his life in the political world.

Jesus: “It is finished!”

Suddenly, one age ended and another began.

Those who had died in faith, held as a prisoner in the place of the dead, greeted the Son of God with celebration. He said, “Get ready, as you Jonah was 3 days and nights in the belly of the whale, and then was thrown up on the seashore, so all of us are leaving this place and very suddenly!

120: “Suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a violent rushing wind...”

120 lives were suddenly changed as the Holy Spirit filled them and the world was never to be the same.

Peter: “Follow me!”

Suddenly, he left his fishing in Galilee and became a fisher of men.

Peter was on the job ... and he heard a voice.

Peter was to fish in another's lake. Suddenly life changed!

Paul: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

Suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Saul was changed into Paul and the Gentile world was never to be the same again.

Now consider Elisha....

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth, And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him.

Abel-meholah (meadow of dancing). It was four miles south of Beth-shean, in the Valley of Jordan, moist and luxuriant fertile soil.

It had not rained for three and one half years. There had been crop failures.

Suddenly, while plowing his field, a wild looking hairy man wearing a rough leather girdle (2 Ki. 1:8), passed over to him and threw his mantle on him.

Elisha was to plow another's field...

"What have I done to you?"

“It is God that called you, not me!”
You are accountable to God, to respect or abuse the call.

Dealing with the present responsibilities with a view to the future.

The sacrifice of the pair of oxen and his farm implements
They were necessary for his farm.

Rearranging priorities is tough. Lk. 14:26.

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26).

Loving less the family
Loving less your life
Loving less your possessions

Carrying your own cross and coming after Jesus.
This is bearing your daily responsibilities, and also doing the mission and will of another.

Between the calling and the sending...

Elisha served Elijah for approximately 8 years, training with him and learning at the school of the prophets.

Paul was 10 years in the desert and Tarsus.
The 12 were 3 ½ years in training.

His final day with Elijah reveals the story of 8 years.

1. Apprehension. 1 Ki. 19:19 (The Call)
2. Circumcision. Gilgal. 2 Ki. 2:1- (rolling away the past)
3. Anointing Bethel. 2 Ki. 2:2. (Col. 2:1 1). (the place of choice)
4. Warfare....Jericho. 2 Ki. 2:4. The Holy Spirit. (The place of war)
5. Crossing over. .. 2 Ki. 2:13. Mantle time.
 - Parting the water of the Jordan river.
 - Healing the water of Jericho.
 - The two she bears attacking the children.
 - The jar of oil
 - The raising of the dead.
 - The pot of stew that was poisonous
 - The healing of Naaman

The floating ax head.

"Follow me Suddenly, a voice is heard. He is passing by...."

M't 4:19. "Now and no one else"

M't 4:20. "Down the same road"

Mk. 16:17. "near, side by side"

1 Pe. 1: 16. "out to the end"

Ro. 14:19. "press toward"

The calling and its...

Funding. 1 Cor. 9:4. Phil. 4:10.

Walk. Eph. 4:1; 2 Cor. 6:3.

Defense. 2 Cor. 12:12.

Elisha was called to plow another's field.

Paul was called to make another's tent.

Peter was called to fish in another's lake.

John was called to mend another's net.

You are called to fight another's battle. Therefore, I will list 10 things you ought to know.

1. Know your commander's voice. Jn. 10.
Develop a relationship with the Lord of Hosts. Joshua.
2. Know your most effective weapons.
Word, blood, name, gifts.
3. Know when to use them.
Strategize
4. Know the tactics of your enemy.
Generals study generals
5. Know that crisis will happen and often.
Cor. 11:23-28. Paul's struggles in ministry
6. Know that the battle is the Lord's.
Chr. 20. Jehoshaphat.
7. Know your harvest field.
Cultivate and defend it.
8. Know how to be a team player.
1 Cor. 12:15-25. T.A.K.E
"T"aking responsibility
"A"ccepting limitation
"K"eeping unity
"E"steeming others
9. Know how to keep the spirit of unity in the bond of peace.
Eph. 4:3.
10. Know that He is God.
Psa. 46:10.

Suddenly, a mantle was thrown on you, a voice passed by, a light shone in your heart, whatever happened, your life has been changed forever.

Now commitment has been determined in your heart. Taking upon yourself the mission of another is an awesome responsibility, but it is extremely rewarding.

Second coming of Jesus: “In a moment, a twinkling of an eye, as the lightning flashes from the east to the west, the Lord will shout, the trumpet of God will sound, the dead will arise and those who are alive will be changed forever.....”