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And he went on with it. And you read when ~~Elijah~~ Elijah was taken up, Elisha said - - Elijah said to Elisha, You stay here. I have to this other town. Elisha says, No I'm going with you. They get over there and you remember at the beginning of 2 Ki., Elijah said, You stay here, I've got to go to this place. He said, No I'm going with you and Elijah tried to shake him, and finally he --Elijahsaid to him What do you want when I'm taken up? He said, I'd like an equivalent (?) portion of your spirit. I'd like the portion of the eldest son -- double portion that was given to the eldest son, but a single portion to each other one. I'd like to be your successor. Elijah said, You've asked a hard thing. But he said, If you see me as I'M taken up, then you'll know that God has granted it. Elijah was gruff (?) to the end. He was disappointed. He'd done this tremendous work, but he failed to carry on. He failed to keep himself in condition. He had failed to see what he needed in order to do the next step and do the next piece of work. God ~~had~~ had Elisha ready. But the work had to wait until Elisha got trained. The work had to wait until Elijah was off the scene and then Elisha himself had to become recognized as Elijah's successor and it took time. We learn from the great good things that the men of God have done. We learn from the way God used Elijah; from the way He blessed him. When Elijah failed there, God did not leave him. God followed him with tender care. God showed him His presence with him. God prepared the man to follow him. But we learn also from the failures of those who have fallen, who have been God's workers because everyone, every human being has ever failed. Jesus Christ is the only one who has not made mistakes, who has not had his failures. God wants us to learn from these failures as well as from these successes.

I think of young people graduating from seminary and they go out and some do a great work and ~~of~~ some just sort of fizzle out. Some start in with tremendous force and make a big splash, and then they disappear. Some settle down and build up and get trained and get ready and then do a work and then keep on and keep on. But you've got to keep yourself in condition if you're going to do it. ~~And~~ And you've got to keep looking to the Lord. And you've got to keep thinking what's the next step? Let's do this step the best we can but let's look ahead and see what is the next step, see what is the need

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