

Grace Mail

Elijah is a shining example of faith in the Old Testament. This man of faith invested in the life of a younger man and we see in Scripture how this discipleship resulted in Elisha being an even greater man of faith. Both men use a phrase that has given me a lot of food for thought in recent days. The phrase they both use is “before whom I stand.”

Know Where You Stand – 1 Kings 17:1

“And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.’”

Elijah uses this phrase in relation to his confrontations with Ahab, the wicked king of Israel. Ahab “did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him” (1 Kings 16:30). He married Jezebel, served Baal making temples and idols to him, and did more to provoke the Lord to anger than all who came before him. His wife massacred the prophets of the Lord. The only survivors were those hidden by a servant.

God has Elijah stand before this wicked king on several occasions. Where does Elijah find the boldness to confront this wicked ruler? The answer is found in our phrase (1 Ki. 17:1; 18:15). Elijah lived with a constant awareness that He stood in the presence of God and would answer to the Lord for his actions. This reality gave Elijah boldness to face danger and threat of personal injury.

The faithfulness of Elijah in living this way encouraged his disciple Elisha to do the same. In 2 Kings 3:14, Elisha rejects an extravagant reward because he stands before the living Lord of hosts.

We can stand boldly before leaders, rulers, and authorities because we serve the one who gave them authority. We serve a risen and living Savior and one day we will stand before His throne to give an account of our lives. Living in awareness of this truth gives us boldness to stand firm for Christ in a world that rejects and opposes Him.

Where do you stand?

You stand before an almighty, infinite God. You stand before the creator, before the sovereign ruler of the universe. You stand before the Redeemer, before the Savior, before the Christ Who has bought you. His evaluation is the only one that matters!

Don’t live for the acclaim of men. We stand before the Lord. Live for Him.