

The Encore **2 Kings 13:10-24**

Main Idea: God prepares specific good works for each of His children to accomplish in their life. These works bring glory to God, but they are not easy. Let us never quit the labors that the LORD gives us to strengthen His church!

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58 [ESV](#))

“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.” (2 Corinthians 4:1 [ESV](#))

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9 [ESV](#))

“As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.” (2 Thessalonians 3:13 [ESV](#))

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” (Hebrews 12:3 [ESV](#))

Five Realities of God’s Work:

Reality #1. The servant in ministry is temporary.

Truth: All true ministry is God’s. None of it is “OURS”. And that is a good thing because it means that we get to be part of something eternal.

“Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?” Leonard Ravenhill

Truth: God gives each of His children opportunity to do something eternally significant with our little lives. He does not ask us to possess great talents, but He calls us to great purpose.

Reality #2: The term of ministry is lifelong.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8 [ESV](#))

Truth: The LORD keeps us here for His purpose. He has a work to accomplish through us. This work is varied, but it is always work. The LORD has no retirement from meaningful labor for His kingdom.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 [ESV](#))

Application: God loves us so much that He gives us opportunity to enter His work. Let us not waste even one opportunity that He provides!

Reality #3: The aim of service is faith.

Application: A heart for Jesus’ ministry always asks, “Does my presence in my church influence others to greater faith, hope and love?”

Truth: Unbelief causes us to miss the blessings of the opportunities that God places in front of us. Let us move forward in service to Jesus!

Reality #4: The power of ministry is of the LORD.

“Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.” (Jeremiah 32:17 [ESV](#))

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”” (John 11:25–26 [ESV](#))

Applications: 1. Receive Jesus as LORD by faith! 2. Live in the power of the resurrection of Jesus! Only those abiding in Jesus will have power to produce lasting fruit.

Reality #5: The work of God is eternal.

Truth: The promise of God, not the faithfulness of the Israelites, motivated God to bless this people.

*Only one life, ’twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.
Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e’er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life; C.T Studd*

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. . . . Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me; I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:1-5 [ESV](#))