

# ALL IN: Burn The Plow

## (1 Kings 19:19-21)

### Introduction

On February 19, 1519, the Spanish explorer Hernan Cortes set sail for Mexico with an entourage of 11 ships, 13 horses, 110 sailors, and 553 soldiers. The indigenous population, upon his arrival, was approximately five million. From a purely mathematical standpoint, the odds were stacked against him by a ratio of 7541 to 1. Two previous expeditions had failed to even establish a settlement in the New World, yet Cortes conquered much of the South American continent.

What Cortes is reported to have done after landing is an epic tale of mythic proportions. He issued an order that turned his mission into an all-or-nothing proposition. **Burn the ships!** As his crew watched their fleet of ships burn and sink, they came to terms with the fact that retreat was not an option. And if you can compartmentalize the conundrum of colonization, there is a lesson to be learned. Nine times out of ten, failure is resorting to Plan B, when Plan A gets too risky, too costly, or too difficult. That's why most people are living their Plan B. They did not burn their ships. (ALL IN by Mark Batterson)

The same is true about many followers of Christ. We turn back when the task becomes difficult, dangerous, or costly.

**Contextualize 1 Kings 19:1-21.**

**Contextualize this sermon** in the ALL IN series.

### I. Elisha's Radical Call (v. 19-20)

#### A) His Daily Grind.

Steven Furtick, in his book titled **Greater**, says this about Elisha, his view from behind the oxen changed very little day to day.

#### B) Elijah's Visit

### **C) Cost of following God**

- 1) Wealth (Dancing meadows, oxen, servants)
- 2) Family
- 3) Comfort

## **II. Elisha's Ridiculous Response (v. 21)**

### **A) Abandoned family**

### **B) Abandoned plan "B"**

### **C) Abandoned the familiar**

Illustrations:

- 1) Missionary Jimmy Swindoll
- 2) Craig Groeschel's story of a family that was on fire for God and then would go to the lake every weekend during the summer.  
Daughter said "Dad why is it we love God all year long, but we don't love God in the summer?" They didn't serve anyone in the summer. They didn't worship in the summer; it was all about their own enjoyment.  
He sold his boat!! He burned his plow!!
- 3) Craig Groeschel's story of a man addicted to porn. He got a smart phone and reverted. He sold his smart phone and bought a flip phone. He burned his plow!

**What plow do you need to burn?**

## **III. Elisha's Remarkable Ministry (II Kings 2:1-15)**

(For eighteen years, Elisha served Elijah. But, he had burned his plows. There was not going back!)

### **A) The blessing of Elijah on Elisha (2:1-9a)**

**B) The request for God's power on Elisha (2:9b)**

**C) The evidence of God's power on Elisha (2:10-15)**

## **Conclusion**

What's holding you back?

Sin

Relationship

Fear

???

Burn that Plow!!!