**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016**

**Sermon Title: I’ll Have a Double-Shot**

**Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-14 *(New International Version)***

1 When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 3The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.” 4Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.”

And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. 5The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.” 6Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on. 7Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. 10“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.” 11As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two. 13Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. “Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 21**

Leader: The king rejoices in your strength, Lord. How great is his joy in the victories you give!

**People: You have granted him his heart’s desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. You came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head.**

Leader: He asked you for life, and you gave it to him -- length of days, for ever and ever.

**People: For the king trusts in the Lord; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken.**

**All: Be exalted in your strength, Lord; we will sing and praise your might.**

**Basic Theme: *What would happen when Elijah the great prophet of God was no longer around to lead God’s people? Surely his shoes were too large for anyone to fill. Would anyone step forward to speak of the power and strength of our great God? Elisha, his servant felt like he was only “half the man” when compared to his leader and therefore would need twice the blessing to continue his legacy.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Elisha could have asked for anything from his leader, the great prophet Elijah… he asked for a double portion of his spirit. He wanted twice the passion. He longed for double the backbone. Why? This sounded like a selfish request. What would Elisha do with twice the spirit if his request were granted?**

**So What? Do you ever make what appear to be selfish requests of God, yet they are granted anyway? Does the blessing of God ever seem to lie right in front of you waiting for you to pick it up? What is stopping from taking hold of the blessing of the Lord and stepping into your calling? Do you need a double-shot of passion and courage? Maybe you just haven’t asked for it?**