

The Potters House



IT'S HEAVIER THAN IT LOOKS

Transcribed and Published by Livingsermons.com

It's Heavier Than It Looks

Source: The Potters House

Preacher: Pastor Keion Henderson

Publisher: LivingSermons.com

Watch Live Video [Here](#)



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Foreword

Some burdens cannot be measured by what is visible to the eye. They are carried in the heart, in the calling, and in the responsibilities God entrusts to His people. It's Heavier Than It Looks reminds us that behind every divine assignment is a weight that can only be sustained by the grace of God.

In this timely message, the preacher offers both biblical insight and pastoral wisdom, helping believers understand that while God's calling may be glorious, it also demands spiritual maturity, humility, dependence, and perseverance. Rather than discouraging us, this truth prepares us to embrace our assignments with greater faith and reliance upon the Holy Spirit.

At LivingSermons.com, our mission is to preserve anointed messages in a format that can continue transforming lives long after they have been preached. It is our prayer that this book will encourage, strengthen, and equip you to carry every responsibility God has entrusted to you with courage and unwavering confidence in His sustaining grace.

May the Lord use these pages to deepen your walk with Him and remind you that whatever He calls you to carry, He also provides the strength to bear.

— Wisdom Epsi
Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube, **at [the Potters House Official YouTube Channel](#)**

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Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

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A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here



Introduction

I have three passages of Scripture. They aren't long, so don't let that deter you. I want to go to **1 Kings 19**, **2 Kings 2**, and **John 14**.

I believe it's my assignment today to reveal to you what actually happened when Bishop turned the church over to Pastor Touré and Pastor Sarah. Sometimes you can watch a movie and not recognize the parts you missed.

Touch your neighbor and say,

"Let's watch it again."

Watching the Transfer Again

Elijah Finds a Man

Let's begin in **1 Kings 19:19–21 (KJV)**.

The part I want to highlight is this moment of transition between Elijah and Elisha. As Elijah searched for the one upon whom he would place the mantle, the Bible says that he **found a man**. That phrase is important. The Scripture says:

"So he departed thence, and found Elisha... and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him."

— **1 Kings 19:19 (KJV)**

Notice where Elisha was. He was with the twelve yoke of oxen. That matters. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. Then verse 20 says:

"And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah..."

— **1 Kings 19:20 (KJV)**

Elisha said,

"Please let me kiss my father and my mother goodbye, and then I will follow you."

Elijah replied,

"Go back again: for what have I done to thee?"

Then verse 21 tells us something remarkable. Elisha returned, took a pair of oxen, slaughtered them, and cooked the meat using the wooden yoke and harnesses as firewood. He fed the people, and they ate. Then he arose, followed Elijah, and became his servant.

Look at what he did. He fed his past so he couldn't go back to it. Had he left the equipment intact, discouragement might have tempted him to return to what was familiar. Instead, he burned the yoke.

He made sure what used to sustain him was consumed. He made certain there would be nothing left to revisit.

I Don't Want What You Drove—I Want What Drove You

Now let's move to **2 Kings 2**.

After crossing over the Jordan, Elijah asked Elisha,

"Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee."

Elisha's request was simple.

"I want your spirit."

I don't want what you drove.

I want what drove you.

Elijah answered,

"Thou hast asked a hard thing..."

Then he gave him a condition:

"Nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."

As they continued walking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated them.

Then Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

You know the rest of the story.

Elijah was taken away from Elisha.

A Shadow of Calvary

I'm not going to spend much time in **John 14**, but I want you to recognize something.

What happened between Elijah and Elisha was a shadow and a type.

At Calvary, we witnessed another transfer.

Another mantle exchange.

Jesus declared:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

— **John 14:12 (KJV)**

Do you see it?

Jesus goes to the Father. Elijah goes away. In both moments, authority is transferred.

Responsibility is transferred. Purpose is transferred.

The Weight Behind the Mantle

Many of us—especially those of us who are younger or moving into middle age—look at what the generation before us has built, and we hope they'll simply hand it to us.

But if you read **2 Kings**, you'll discover something important.

Elijah didn't place the mantle back on Elisha.

He threw it to the ground.

Elisha had to pick it up.

And here's what Elisha didn't know.

He didn't know what that mantle had cost Elijah.

You've got to be careful when you look at what somebody has and assume you can handle it.

You can drive past a beautiful house and say,

"I want that house."

Until you discover what it costs to cut the grass...

...pay the water bill...

...replace the roof...

...paint the exterior...

Then you might decide your apartment isn't so bad after all.

Touch your neighbor and say,

"You might want to stay there a while."

Everybody wants a business until they discover what it costs to maintain it.

An oil change becomes another car payment.

I'm saying this because there are people in this room who aspire to greatness.

You look at Pastor Touré. He makes it look easy: You see the ministry, you see the businesses, you see the family. You admire the influence. And there is nothing wrong with wanting what God has done through someone else's life.

But hear this word:

It's heavier than it looks.

Touch three people and tell them, **"It's heavier than it looks."**

The Saturdays That Shaped Me

You may be seated in the presence of the Lord. Any '80s babies in here?

I was born in the '80s. We're about to have some fun. Some of my greatest memories were created on Saturdays. There was one rule in our house. You couldn't leave the house until you cleaned it.

Some of y'all's mama knew my mama.

It was during those Saturdays, cleaning our little two-bedroom apartment, that I fell in love with The Temptations.

We played old-school music. I was listening to Sam Cooke sing when I was five years old. I knew songs by The Dells, The Originals, Al Green, Marvin Gaye, and Luther Vandross. I'm not going to sing them because we're online. How many of you know exactly what I'm talking about?

It wasn't until I grew up that I realized Luther actually walked away from the microphone while singing. I thought he held it the whole time. We also watched cartoons. Tom and Jerry was on my list. But let me find out if y'all are really anointed.

The greatest cartoon ever made...

...was **Thundercats**.

If you don't say amen, we're going to have another altar call. *Thundercats! Ho!*

I love y'all.

The Future Arrived

For the purpose of this discussion, though, I want to talk about **The Jetsons**. The Jetsons had FaceTime before we had FaceTime. They had robotic housekeepers before we had robotic vacuums. The only thing they had that we still don't have is flying cars.

But it's coming. Back then it looked like impossible science fiction. Now almost everything they imagined has become our reality. Think about this.

In 2026, you carry a phone in your pocket that is more powerful than the computers that first sent men to the moon.

Siri is talking.

Alexa is answering. Claude is creating. We've come a long way from rotary phones. I remember my grandfather had a yellow rotary phone hanging on the kitchen wall.

It took forever to dial one number. The cord was so long you could walk halfway across the house before it ran out. One time I almost made it to school before realizing I was still connected.

We've come a long way.

From rotary phones...

...to beepers...

...to smartphones...

...to artificial intelligence. The other day I watched a video online of a robot dancing. Then it kicked a kid in the stomach. Instead of being amazed, the first thing I thought was,

"Is this AI?"

Technology has advanced so rapidly that we've almost stopped being amazed.

Don't Celebrate the Development More Than the Developer

Do you realize where we live?

With all the grandeur and technological advancement around us, I believe we've missed something. We're celebrating the developments more than we celebrate the Developer.

Are you listening to me?

You cannot truly admire a building without appreciating the engineer who designed it.

You cannot genuinely appreciate a masterpiece without honoring the artist who painted it.

Creation should always point us back to the Creator.

The things that change our lives often overshadow the people God used to create those things.

And that isn't only true in technology.

It's also true spiritually.

Every great move of God cost somebody something.

Did you hear what I said?

Every great move of God cost somebody something.

Abraham had to leave his family.

Joseph survived exile.

Peter left his boat.

Every time God uses someone, it costs them something.

God has never asked anyone to change the world...

...without first asking them to change their plans.

Did you hear what I just said?

Glory Has Weight

I didn't come to this Generation-Shaping House today simply to tell a great man, "Happy Birthday."

You already know he's great.

The nations know it.

Heaven has recorded it.

You've read the books.

You've watched the movies.

You've attended the conferences.

But if all we ever see is the article and overlook the author...

...if we admire the manifestation but ignore the mind behind it...

...we've missed the lesson.

I'm talking to the young people today.

You need to understand something.

Glory has weight.

The conference is heavier for the host than it is for the attendee.

People come to your house and enjoy your meal in twenty minutes.

They never see the grocery shopping.

The careful selection.

Checking expiration dates.

Preparing the food.

Cleaning the kitchen.

People enjoy in a moment what took you years to build.

The book you read in two weeks may have taken the author two years to write.

I'm afraid we're becoming a generation fascinated by outcomes while forgetting process.

Just touch somebody and say,

"It's going to make sense in a minute."

I'm simply trying to show you...

It's heavier than it looks.

You don't build a house like this with ChatGPT. You don't build a ministry like this with AI.

It takes blood. It takes tears. It takes nights of wanting to give up.

It takes misunderstanding.

It takes rejection.

The Strength to Continue While Exhausted

By the time we arrive at **1 Kings 19**, we find ourselves in the story of Elisha.

But before Elisha steps into his assignment, there's something you need to understand about every great leader. There comes a season when they still have the strength to keep going...

...but they are exhausted. I'm talking to parents.

You still have the strength to be a mother...

...but you're tired. I'm talking to entrepreneurs.

You still have the strength to build...

...but you're tired.

I'm talking to pastors.

You still have the strength to shepherd God's people...

...but you're exhausted.

The Weight of Exhaustion

When we meet Elijah, he is exhausted. He has called down fire from heaven. He has defeated the prophets of Baal. He has survived the threats of Jezebel.

He has run from it all. Now we find him sitting beneath a juniper tree, asking God to take his life. **It's heavier than it looks.**

He preached on Sunday...

...and wanted to die on Monday.

I just want to know—is there anybody honest in here today?

I know you came dressed up.

You have your lashes on.

Your makeup is done.

Your hair is laid just right.

You drove here in a nice car.

But is there anybody willing to admit to your neighbor, just for their sake,

"I'm tired."

Sometimes I feel like giving up.

Sometimes I just want to drive past my house and keep going.

Sometimes I want to disappear somewhere and finally be at rest.

Sometimes I just want to say,

"You can have it all."

Sometimes I feel like saying,

"It was a good try. I gave everything I had, but I'm done."

Is there anybody in this room?

I don't want to talk to the holy today.

I want to talk to the exhausted. I don't want to talk to the people pretending everything is fine. I want to talk to somebody who has said, *"If one more thing happens to me, I don't know what I'm going to do."*

Look at your neighbor and tell them, **"Neighbor, I look good."**

"I cleaned up well."

"I've got my swag together."

"But it's heavier."

Tell them,

"It's hard work being this good."

It's hard work.

- I've got these kids.
- I've got this husband.
- I've got this wife.
- I've got this job.
- I've got this vision.
- I've got this trauma.

I'm trying to figure all of this out. It isn't easy. This is an anointed prophet of God, yet we find him sitting beneath a tree saying,

"God, I helped them with their lives...

...but I want You to take mine."

I'm talking to real people today.

God's Unexpected Response

What amazes me is how God responds. Elijah pours out all of his frustration. He complains. He quits emotionally. And God, in all of His compassion, holiness, mercy, and love, looks at the prophet and says,

"Are you finished?"

Then He says,

"Get up."

I came to speak to everyone who's been throwing themselves a pity party...

...everyone who's been hosting a sympathy session...

...everyone who's been waiting for someone to rescue them.

I came to tell you,

Get up.

Slap your neighbor and say,

"Get up!"

Find somebody else if you have to.

Tell them again,

"Get up!"

Some of y'all are so stubborn you're still sitting down.

I said,

Get up!

That's the problem.

You've been listening to your feelings more than you've been listening to the declaration of the Lord.

Get up out of your sleep.

Get up out of your depression.

Get up out of your frustration.

Get up out of yourself.

You've still got work to do.

Am I talking to anybody in The Potter's House today?

Somebody shout,

"Get up!"

Your mother didn't work two jobs for you to stay under that tree. You didn't go back to school as an adult just to stay under that tree. You didn't take out another loan to increase your education just to stay under that tree.

It's time for somebody...

...to get up. You have more to do.

Sometimes the Answer Is Another Assignment

Write this down.

Elijah is tired...

...and God says,

"Get up."

Why?

Because sometimes God's answer to your discouragement...

...is another assignment.

Sometimes God's answer to your frustration...

...is another responsibility.

We say,

"God, I'm tired."

God says,

"I know.

Now get up and go do something else."

Touch three people and tell them,

"Get up and do something else."

I know you've been divorced...

...but you've got to go on another date.

You cannot quit living.

I know Earl broke your heart...

...but you've got to give Jimmy a chance.

Talk to me, somebody.

I know it hurt.

I know it broke you.

I know it disappointed you.

But God still says,

"Get up."

God Keeps Telling His People to Get Up

God told Noah to get up. God told Moses to get up. When Moses died, Joshua became overwhelmed with grief. God spoke to Joshua and said,

"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan..."

— **Joshua 1:2 (KJV)**

Right after the funeral...

...start moving.

God told Joshua to get up. He told Ezekiel to get up. And I'm telling somebody today—Get up.

Somebody in the balcony shout,

"Get up!"

Somebody on the front row shout,

"Get up!"

Somebody in the back shout,

"Get up!"

You're too smart to stay down.

You're too wonderfully made to stay down.

You're too blessed to stay down.

You've got to get up.

There are some people who, no matter how many times you tell them to get up, are always waiting for somebody else to pick them up.

But the problem with always being picked up...

...is that people will remind you they picked you up.

I want you to stand up in your own strength and declare,

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

— Psalm 118:24 (KJV)

Somebody shout again,

"Get up!"

Your Next Is Waiting on Your Movement

Now watch this.

The Bible says that as soon as Elijah got up...

...he stumbled into his succession.

You'll never run into your next...

...while sitting still. Some of y'all keep praying, "Lord, send me my husband." But you never leave the house. How is he supposed to find you?

You stay home all day with rollers in your hair. Where's he going to meet you?

The gardener?

You've got to get up. James Brown has been trying to tell some of y'all for years.

Get up. As soon as Elijah got up...

...he ran into what was next. As soon as he got up...

...he found what he had been praying for. Was he still depressed?

Yes.

Was he still exhausted?

Yes.

Was he still frustrated?

Yes.

Was he still afraid?

Yes.

But he got up.

That means you can be broke...

...and still get up.

You can go through a painful breakup...

...and still get up.

You can be sitting in divorce court...

...and still get up.

You can lose the business...

...and still get up.

You can lose the house...

...and still get up.

There isn't anything life can throw at you...

...that God cannot help you get up from.

Somebody shout it one more time—"**Get up!**"

God Sent Him to a Field

Notice where God sent Elijah. He didn't send him to the temple. He didn't send him to another prayer meeting. He didn't send him to another conference.

He sent him...

...to a field.

And in that field...

...he found a man working.

Hear me carefully.

Some of you are waiting for God to call you from nothing into something.

But God doesn't interrupt nothing.

He found a man already working.

Some of y'all missed that.

You're saying,

"I'm just waiting on the Lord."

God doesn't interrupt nothing.

He finds people who are already moving.

Elisha wasn't doing exactly what he wanted to do. But he was faithfully working what he had. He was tending twelve yoke of oxen. He wasn't comparing himself to someone else's assignment. He was working what God had already placed in his hands.

Touch somebody and tell them,

"Work what you've got."

The Mantle Falls on Motion

Watch this carefully. **The mantle only falls on motion.** Can I be just a little messy?

I'm looking at some of y'all. You haven't moved since church started. If you can't move in church...

...how are you going to move in business?

If you can't move in worship...

...how are you going to move in the marketplace?

Tell somebody,

"Get up."

Mentally...

Get up. Physically...

Get up. Psychologically...

Get up. Emotionally...

Get up. Elisha was tending his oxen...

...because the mantle was looking for movement. Some of y'all are just sitting around saying,

"I'm waiting on the Lord."

You can work...

...while you wait.

Young People, It's Time to Move

Young people...

Listen to me.

Some of y'all are thirty years old talking about,

"I'm still adulting."

You're late.

You were supposed to start growing years ago.

You can't wait until tomorrow to become who God has called you to be.

Open the business now.

Write the book now.

Start the ministry now.

Move now.

Young people, make some noise!

You cannot wait for somebody to hand you your future.

Yes, it's heavy.

Yes, there will be days you sit under the tree.

But you've got to get up.

Because you're not next.

You're now.

More Than Social Media

I can only imagine what it was like when Bishop Jakes built this church.

There were faithful people behind the scenes.

People whose names many of us don't know.

They were carrying the weight.

Now God has placed Pastor Touré in this position.

Others must now stand up too.

You can't just be young...

...cute...

...have an Instagram account...

...and host a podcast.

You've got to serve.

Touch your neighbor and say,

"Pick it up."

You've got to evangelize. Bring somebody to church. Share your faith. This isn't a place where we simply come to look good.

This is a place where we are equipped...

...so we can go out and fill God's house.

God Calls You From Success

Watch this. God did not call Elisha to success. He called him...

from success. If you've got twelve yoke of oxen...

...you're doing well.

Elisha already had an enterprise.

He was already an entrepreneur.

God doesn't usually call people from nothing.

He calls people who are already faithful with something.

The question is:

What are you doing with what you already have?

Some people keep saying,

"I'm waiting for God to bless me."

Meanwhile...

God is waiting for movement.

Even if you're failing...

...at least you're moving.

Think about Paul.

God interrupted him on the road to Damascus.

Why?

Because even though Paul was wrong...

...he was moving.

Even wrong motion got God's attention. You've got to do something.

This isn't the season to sit around looking cute. You can worry about looking cute after you've fulfilled your assignment.

From Influencer to Influential

I know many of you want to become influencers. But I'm talking about becoming **influential**. I'm talking about becoming someone whose voice carries weight.

Someone leaders call when decisions must be made. Someone God trusts with influence that changes generations. There's nothing wrong with being an influencer.

It has its place.

But your influence must eventually become something that transforms lives.

The Mantle Is on You

Let me encourage you. This mantle wasn't placed only on the Roberts. It was placed on you. You can't sit back waiting to see what they're going to do. God sent me here to ask you what they cannot ask themselves.

What are you going to do?

What are you going to do to help carry the weight of this glory?

What are you going to do to make sure someone is sitting beside you next week?

What are you going to do to help carry this historic house into the next generation?

When Elijah saw Elisha...

...he didn't just see a man.

He saw movement. Because glory always rests on movement. That's why it's called **wind**. Because wind...

...moves.

Tell your neighbor, "**The mantle is looking for movement.**" Take the next few moments and create some movement before God. Lift your hands. Lift your voice.

Declare, "**Lord, I'll move because I know You've assigned a mantle to my life.**"

Open your mouth and give God glory. Let everything that has breath...

Praise the Lord.

A Worn Mantle

Y'all still with me?

Give me just a few more minutes. Some people believe Elijah wore the mantle for twenty to twenty-five years before passing it to Elisha.

While the Bible doesn't explicitly state that length of time, the implication is clear.

When Elijah handed over the mantle...

...it wasn't new.

It had been worn. It carried years of ministry. Years of sacrifice. Years of obedience. Years of tears. Years of battles. Because the greatest mantles...

...always carry the weight of the people who wore them first.

The Mantle Carries the Scars of Survival

The mantle wasn't new. It was worn. Come on—I want you to imagine it. I want you to smell the mantle that still carried the pollen from the wilderness. Can you smell it?

Can you smell the traces of those lonely nights when Elijah lay on the ground, exhausted and afraid that Jezebel would kill him?

Look closely enough and you can still find pieces of tree bark woven into it from where he lay beneath the juniper tree. Because the mantle is not glory.

The mantle is survival. Most people look at a mantle expecting something glamorous.

This isn't a designer coat.

This is a bulletproof vest.

This is what protected me while I was wounded.

This is what covered me when people walked away.

This is what kept me alive when my father and my mother forsook me.

When you're asking God for a mantle...

...you're not asking for a promotion.

You're asking for pain.

Be Careful What You Ask For

I remember telling Bishop Jakes, "Bishop, I want to be just like you. I want a church just like yours."

No...

I don't.

I didn't understand what it cost to build a fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, even one-hundred-million-dollar ministry campus...

...and then pay for it. I didn't understand what it cost to write books. I didn't understand interviews...

...having every word scrutinized...

...every thought critiqued...

...every decision questioned.

I had no idea what ministry would cost your children.

I had no idea what it would cost your wife. I had no idea what it would cost your body. Now my prayer has changed.

"Lord...

...give me whatever You know I can carry."

I don't want another one of you looking at somebody else's life and asking God to give you exactly what they have.

Ask God instead...

...for what **you** can handle.

Learn to Enjoy the Distance

I know I frustrated Bishop.

I kept asking questions.

I kept trying to prove I was ready.

I'd watch him because he had this look.

When he looked at you a certain way...

...you knew you were in trouble.

One day he looked at me and said something I'll never forget.

This is especially for the young people looking up to Pastor Touré and Pastor Sarah.

Just because Pastor Sarah hosts a large conference doesn't mean you need to start one tomorrow.

Here's what Bishop told me.

He said,

"Son, learn to enjoy the distance."

I didn't understand it then.

I do now.

Let me stay ahead of you so I can warn you about what's coming.

Because if you catch up with me too soon...

...we'll both be standing in the same pit.

Keep your leaders ahead of you.

Learn from them.

Honor them.

Enjoy the distance.

Because...

it's heavier than it looks.

Leadership Is Hidden Weight

Do you know how much attention to detail it takes to lead something like this?

Making sure the grounds are clean.

Making sure the carpets are spotless.

Making sure there aren't stains on the ceiling. Making sure the parking lot is maintained. Making sure the grass is cut. Making sure nothing is rusting. Making sure the hot water works. Making sure every restroom is functioning. Making sure the staff is paid. Making sure the volunteers are appreciated.

It's so much.

It's heavier than it looks.

Some people stand back and say,

"I could do that."

Try it.

Sometimes Someone Else Must Say It

I have to stay focused. Forgive me, Bishop. I got carried away. But this is my pastor. When he stepped into this assignment, I told him I came to help him. Sometimes God sends another voice to say what the leader cannot say himself.

I can say it. And if you don't like me...

...I've got a church waiting on me back in Houston. I'll go right back home. If he says it, it's called revelation. If I say it...

...well, that's all right.

Y'all still with me?

God Never Places Adult Destiny on Infant Shoulders

Think about the weight of this mantle. It wasn't just cloth. It carried mud. It carried bark. It carried the evidence of suffering. That makes it heavy. Now Elisha is already carrying the weight of his own emotions...

...and now God places an even greater responsibility upon him. Then the Lord revealed something to me. **You can handle it.** Because God never places adult destiny...

...on infant shoulders. If He gave it to you...

...it's because you can carry it. For every person who thought they should have received the mantle...

...it never fell on them. Because it wasn't theirs to wear. Remember this. Elijah chose Elisha.

Israel didn't. The mantle was placed on him. And yes...

...it was heavy. I'm sure there were moments when Elisha thought, "This is too much for me."

"I'd rather go back to my business." "I'd rather stay where life was simpler." But understand this: Bishop didn't call Pastor Touré from nothing.

He was already successful. He was called **from** success...

...into assignment.

God's Hand Is Already at Work

Who knew God would do it this way?

Who knew He would place a divine magnet inside the womb of a mother...

...drawing the next generation toward its destiny?

Who knew God would issue a calling in eternity past...

...that would become visible in time?

Who knew He would draw someone to Dallas with a whistle that only they could hear?

Because God knows exactly what He's doing.

And if you'll trust Him...

...He'll take your yesterday...

...and your tomorrow...

...and weave them together into a destiny that prepares you for purpose.

Touch somebody and say,

"I feel better now."

I understand now that,

"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

— **Romans 8:28 (KJV)**

If you believe there's a mantle coming your way...

...make some noise in this room.

Don't Let Other Voices Discourage You

Watch what happens next. The sons of the prophets begin talking. People always have something to say after the mantle falls.

They come to Elisha and say,

"Did you know the Lord is taking Elijah today?"

They knew exactly what they were doing. They were trying to discourage him. And let's be honest. We're human. Just because we're mature doesn't mean we're immune.

People say things. Sometimes we don't answer...

...but we still hear them. That's part of carrying the mantle. You have to embrace people...

...who don't necessarily want you to have what God has given you.

Sometimes the Best Answer Is Silence

Then Elisha gives one of the greatest responses in Scripture. After all their talking...

...he simply says,

"Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

— 2 Kings 2:3 (KJV)

In modern language...

"I know.

Be quiet."

Tell your neighbor, **"Be quiet."**

Some people simply need to stop talking. Elisha understood something. You don't need to explain your assignment to people who were never called to carry it.

Stay Close

Then we see another side of Elisha.

He appears strong one moment...

...and like a son the next.

Three different times Elijah tells him,

"Stay here."

Three different times Elisha replies,

"As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee."

— 2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6 (KJV)

Why?

Because he understood something many people miss.

You cannot inherit...

...from someone you're constantly trying to outgrow.

That's one of the great problems in the Body of Christ.

Too much competition.

Not enough cooperation.

Some people got close to spiritual fathers hoping to receive a mantle.

When they didn't receive it as quickly as they wanted...

...they went looking for another father.

But some people enter your life for seasons.

Others enter for reasons.

If you remove the reason...

...the season ends.

You cannot learn from someone...

...while simultaneously trying to outperform them.

Touch your neighbor and say,

"There are many mantles."

I've been around long enough to watch people come...

...and go.

Some never received the mantle because they left...

...when they should have lingered.

They became impatient.

They disconnected themselves from the very root that was nourishing them.

Now they're trying to find a back door...

...into an anointing they once had a key to.

Stay Close to What God Is Building

If you can't tell by now...

...I ain't never scared.

There's a transfer taking place.

I'm whispering this because I don't want you to miss it.

Stay close.

Jesus said,

"Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

— **Matthew 16:18 (KJV)**

That means God is still in control...

...even when we don't understand everything He's doing.

Strike the Waters

Finally they arrive at the Jordan River. Now this mantle—still carrying the marks of suffering, still carrying the evidence of survival—comes to the river.

How do we know the mantle truly belongs to Elisha?

Because when he struck the waters...

...they parted.

Here's the lesson. Someone else's mantle in your hands...

...leaves the waters untouched. But when it's your mantle...

...the river opens. I don't know who this word is for today. But God told me to tell you:

Take one more step. The waters are about to part. Find something in your hand.

Your Bible.

A handkerchief.

Anything.

And strike it.

Strike it!

Tell your neighbor,

"Strike it!"

I don't know what you're facing...

...strike it.

I don't know how difficult it's been...

...strike it.

When you strike it...

...things move.

When you strike it...

...barriers open.

When you strike it...

...you're declaring,

"I carry the mantle."

And everything standing in front of me...

...must move.

Somebody shout,

"It's about to split in half!"

Strike it!

If a match is going to produce fire...

...it has to be struck.

If a nail is going to do its job...

...it has to be struck.

If a piano is going to make music...

...the keys have to be struck.

If a drum is going to make a sound...

...it has to be struck.

Sometimes in life...

...you're simply going to have to strike out in faith.

Touch somebody and tell them,

"Strike it!"

I don't care how much you've cried. strike it. I don't care how confused you are. strike it. I don't care how discouraged you've become. Strike it. I don't care how much pain you're carrying. Strike it. Somebody in this room...

...strike it.

Burn the Way Back

Then Elisha did something powerful. He took the yokes...

...the harnesses...

...the tools of his former occupation...

...and he burned them. Why?

Because he was declaring, **"I am committed to this mantle."**

Even if I become discouraged...

...I'm not going back.

So he burned every bridge back to his old life. He left himself with no retreat. No backup plan. No return. Only obedience. Only purpose. Only the mantle.

I'm Not Going Back

I wish I had about five hundred people who would look a neighbor in the eye and say, **"Neighbor, I make this promise to you: come hell or high water, I'm not going back."**

You got the wrong neighbor. Turn to somebody else and say, **"Neighbor, come hell or high water, I promise you one thing: as the Lord liveth, I'm not going back."**

Did they say anything?

You still have the wrong neighbor.

Turn again and find somebody else and tell them,

"God told me to tell you, this won't last forever."

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

— Psalm 30:5 (KJV)

Give them a high five and shout,

"Neighbor, I know it's heavier than it looks..."

"...but I believe I can fly.

I believe I can touch the sky.

I think about it every night and day.

I'll spread my wings and fly away."

I believe in the impossible.

I believe in the unimaginable.

When I Move, You Move

Have I got about five hundred people who will grab somebody by the hand?

We're about to get out of here.

Look them in the eye and say,

"Neighbor, God told me to tell you that one shall chase a thousand, but two shall put ten thousand to flight."

(See Deuteronomy 32:30.)

"So here's my instruction:

When I move...

...you move.

Just like that."

You got the wrong neighbor.

"If I jump...

...you jump.

Just like that.

If I run...

...you run.

Just like that."

Somebody shout,

"Yes!"

Tell somebody,

"Pick it up!"

It's your mantle.

It's your season.

It's your time.

This is your church.

Some of y'all missed what I just said.

Somebody shout,

"This is my church!"

Since it's your church...

...where's the help?

Is this your church?

Then don't be passive.

Pick it up.

Pick it up.

Pick it up.

Nobody Else Can Carry Your Mantle

Can I tell you something?

If God wanted somebody else to carry it...

...He would have put it on them.

Yes, it's going to be heavy.

Yes, it's going to be hard.

But nobody can carry it...

...except you.

High-five your neighbor and tell them,

**"It's you.

It's you.

It's you.

It's you."**

The Bible says the mantle fell.

And Elisha picked it up.

This church isn't going to keep growing simply because it's called *The Potter's House*.

Somebody has to pick it up.

This is your mantle.

This is your destiny.

This is history in the making.

Think about what God has allowed you to be part of.

You have the opportunity to receive a mantle that cost a man everything...

...and say,

"Bishop, we've got it from here."

Don't Miss This Moment

This young man...

I wouldn't say it if it weren't true...

...is brilliant.

Churches often lose momentum during seasons of transition.

Not because God stopped moving...

...but because people spend too much time trying to decide who they would have chosen.

You're not Elijah.

Your name is Mary.

You're John.

You're Calvin.

You're Kevon.

You're Deonte.

You're Willie Earl.

You aren't Elijah.

This moment is too important to miss because you nodded off during the movie.

Let's rewind.

Press play.

The mantle didn't shift only to one man.

It shifted...

...to all of you.

Repeat after me:

"We are The Potter's House."

Say it again.

"We are The Potter's House."

One more time.

"We are The Potter's House."

Pick It Up

One man stood on this platform with one microphone...

...and gave everything he had.

He sat in this chair.

The enemy tried to take him out.

But he never dropped the microphone.

Because you don't have to pick something up...

...if it never gets dropped.

Everybody shout,

"Pick it up!"

Pick up your giving.

Pick up your pace.

Pick up your evangelism.

Pick it up.

Pastors don't build churches. **Sheep beget sheep.**

Talk about your church like you love it. Show up like you love it.

Serve like you love it. If you truly love that man of God...

...you don't prove it by your absence when he's absent.

You prove it...

...by your presence. That's how you honor your pastor.

If you love him...

...show him some birthday love. Come on—you can do better than that.

Fifty years.

What an incredible milestone.

You Have Forgotten Who You Are

Now I understand why God kept changing my sermon.

Because my assignment today...

...was to be a voice crying in the wilderness.

To wake you up.

You have forgotten who you are.

You are The Potter's House.

Pastor Touré...

I'm not you.

But I do have an imagination.

You never complain to me.

We talk often.

You've never complained.

But I can imagine what the nights have been like.

I can imagine how many times you've cried when nobody was watching.

And I know...

...without you ever saying a word...

...that even in this short season you've probably wondered if you should give up.

But I came to remind you...

...that the mantle—the one carrying the bark...

the pollen...

the scars...

the evidence of survival—is still yours.

It has always been yours.

Whenever you wonder why God chose you...

...remember this:

It was yours to pick up.

Others had opportunities.

But they walked past it.

You picked it up.

It's yours.

You're Not Carrying It Alone

And hear me clearly. We've got you. You're not carrying this by yourself. Come on and thank God for your pastors. Let them hear you.

Come on!

Let them hear you. This has not been an easy assignment.

Let them hear your appreciation.

You Are Living Through History

Now look around.

Really look around.

Do you know what you're looking at?

You're witnessing history.

Can you imagine what it would cost to build a church like this in 2026?

When Bishop built this ministry, the cost was already enormous.

Imagine what it would require today.

Some of you remember hearing him preach,

"Hand me another brick!"

What a journey.

What a testimony.

A Final Word

Before we give and prepare to go home...

...I want you to hear my heart.

I know the Lord sent me here today.

I know He did.

From the bottom of my heart...

...and I believe Bishop, Lady Serita, Pastor Touré, and Pastor Sarah would all agree...

...I want you to look around this sanctuary.

Because all across America today...

...there are magnificent coliseums...

...great basketball arenas...

...massive buildings that were constructed twenty and thirty years ago...

...and now people are trying to figure out what to do with them.

I'm from Gary, Indiana.

If you've been following the news, you've probably heard that the Chicago Bears are moving to Hammond, Indiana—just minutes from where I grew up—because there's no more room to build in the city of Chicago.

We were recently in Nashville...

The Mantle Must Be Picked Up

I preached in Nashville yesterday. They are building a new stadium right next to the old one because visions change.

See, Bishop Jake picked these pews, not Pastor Tér. Bishop Jake picked this stage, but there was another vision in that man. And one day, he is going to have to figure out with you how to get out what is inside of him and bring it into this place.

So, you have to pick up that mantle because it is going to cost you again.

It is going to cost you again. It is going to cost you to make sure that this looks like the land flowing with milk and honey. That is why you have to open up businesses. That is why you have to make sure that you are being a steward. That is why you have to find your fit. That is why you have to grow.

Because there is a shift coming.

You cannot see it. It is in his heart. He has not told it to me, but I know he is planning for it. He is trying to figure it out. He is thinking about it. He is rearranging things. It is coming.

And you have to get ready for it.

The parking lot is going to crumble soon. The roof is going to have to be replaced. The air conditioners will go out.

I am just trying to tell you all—you came when it was built, but it is heavier than it looks.

Eventually, like the temple in Jerusalem, you are going to have to rebuild it.

Are you listening to me?

If you are in this place today, and you know for sure that God has called you to this house, I want you to acknowledge it by standing on your feet. Just stand up wherever you are.

Give yourselves a hand.

I am not going to tell you exactly what to give because I know that he has a plan to do that at a later date. But every tree starts with a seed.

It takes a banana about nine months from seed to maturity.

Did you know it takes about ten years for a seed to produce an apple orchard or a tree that produces 10,000 apples after the initial seed is planted? For an avocado, it takes 13 to 20 years.

What am I trying to say?

I do not know what kind of seeds you have, but you better hurry up and sow, because the day you sow is when the clock starts ticking.

That is when the clock starts ticking.

I want everybody in this place to ask God, “What seed must I sow?” And sow in the initiation of a mantle shift.

Because it is here.

Everybody say, “It is here.”

And the reason why you should not feel any pressure is because I am not going to tell you what to do.

Here is what my brother always says. He says, “If you have it, don’t lie. If you don’t have it, don’t try.”

So this is only for the people who will and who can.

I want you to get a tangible seed in your hand, and I want you to bring it to this altar as a way of saying:

“I am bought in. I am committed to making this heavy thing lighter.”

You have no idea what it takes to run an operation of this magnitude.

As you get that seed, just bring it to the altar. Come. Come. No order. Just come where you are. Just come from where you are.

Now, God knows if what you are bringing is a sacrifice or not.

I asked Pastor—let me tell you how much he loves you. Stay with me. Don’t leave. Don’t leave. Just bring it, because I am going to pray for you.

I asked Pastor, “Did he want me to do it?”

He said, “Feel no pressure. I want us to have an experience.”

That is how much he loves you.

He did not set you up for this. He told me, “Don’t worry about it.” But the Lord put it on my heart.

Come closer. Bring it. Bring it. Bring it.

Lay it on the altar if you can. Even if you have it electronically, I am about to release something over you.

I believe in you.

That was straight from the throne room from start to finish.

Thank you so much, Pastor, Apostle, Bishop, Prophet, and everything else.

Can we give it up one more time for a servant of God, Keion Henderson?

This was a destiny-establishing, defining word and moment. So much wisdom. So much revelation. And how appropriate that it happened as we honor and celebrate our bishop’s birthday.

Thank you both. A true son.

We are getting ready to go. I want to invite you out Wednesday night for Walk It Out Wednesday. We are going to continue to walk out this word with our incredible pastors.

Thank you for joining us on three days of fasting of your choice—three days of believing God that it is already done.

Love and appreciate you so much.

May the Lord bless and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious toward you. May He lift up His countenance over you and grant you shalom.

Shalom in Jesus’ name.

Love you. God bless you.

At The Potter's House

At The Potter's House, we are invested in you—not just what you do, but who you are becoming.

We believe that in this house, we are better together. We need one another to be holy, to hold each other accountable, and to keep growing.

As God positions us to serve every soul, we believe that an act of sowing is an act of faith and agreement right where God is speeding up.

And we are honored that we get to partner with you in reaching lives near and far.

This is your official invitation to not just be a spectator, but to be a partner—to be a member of our family that seeks kingdom solutions during the challenges of every season.

Amen.

Your giving, your service, and your love to this house are not just generosity—they are ministry.

If this message spoke to you, and you believe in what God is doing in this house, we invite you to become a member today.

We want to do life with you and share this message with someone you care about—someone who needs it the most.

I believe it could be the catalyst for the breakthrough they are seeking.

No matter where you are, remember: God sees you. He loves you. And so do we.



About The Potter's House

The Potter's House is an intergenerational church passionately committed to uplifting humanity by embodying Christ's call to salvation while addressing the most pressing challenges facing our world—both locally and globally.

At its core, The Potter's House believes that true transformation requires more than spiritual growth alone. In an ever-changing world, thriving demands a holistic approach to human development—one that nurtures spiritual depth, emotional resilience, meaningful community, intellectual growth, and economic empowerment.

With a mission rooted in faith and innovation, The Potter's House meets people at every stage of life, providing practical solutions, spiritual guidance, and empowering opportunities designed to help individuals and families evolve with purpose, strength, and power.

As a global voice of hope and restoration, The Potter's House remains dedicated to building lives, strengthening communities, and advancing the Kingdom of God through transformative ministry.

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