

The Honor of a Hard Choice

1 Kings 19:19-21



Evangel Baptist Church

7/16/2017 – www.evbapt.org

Also available are a text-only version of the outline at

www.evbapt.org/socs/evangel_sermon_outline_2017-07-16.pdf

Or an audio podcast at

www.evbapt.org/media/evangel_sermon_2017-07-16.mp3

This is a pdf file of the PowerPoint® notes for the message by Pastor Dave Tietjen on Sunday, July 16, 2017, reprising a sermon first given in March 2017. This is Pastor Dave's last sermon, as Evangel closes at the end of the month. (There will be no sermon during the "Farewell Service" on July 23). Access to sermon resources will remain available on the website for an undetermined time into the future.

The honor of a hard choice *celebrated*

Example chosen “A League of Their Own”



“It is supposed to be hard.
The hard is what makes it
great.”

Coach Jimmy Dugan
(Tom Hanks)

Elijah's context

- The foes faced

Elijah's context

- The foes faced
- The focus forward

Elijah's context

- The foes faced
- The focus forward
- A friend found

Good definitions

“One who multiplies joys, divides griefs”

Elijah's context

- The foes faced
- The focus forward
- A friend found

Good definitions

“One who multiplies joys, divides griefs”

“A watch which beats true for all time
and never runs down”

Elijah's context

- The foes faced
- The focus forward
- A friend found

Good definitions

“One who multiplies joys, divides griefs”

“A watch which beats true for all time
and never runs down”

“A friend is one who comes in when the
whole world has gone out”

Elijah's context

- The foes faced
- The focus forward
- A friend found

God's design

Refreshment

Release

Reality

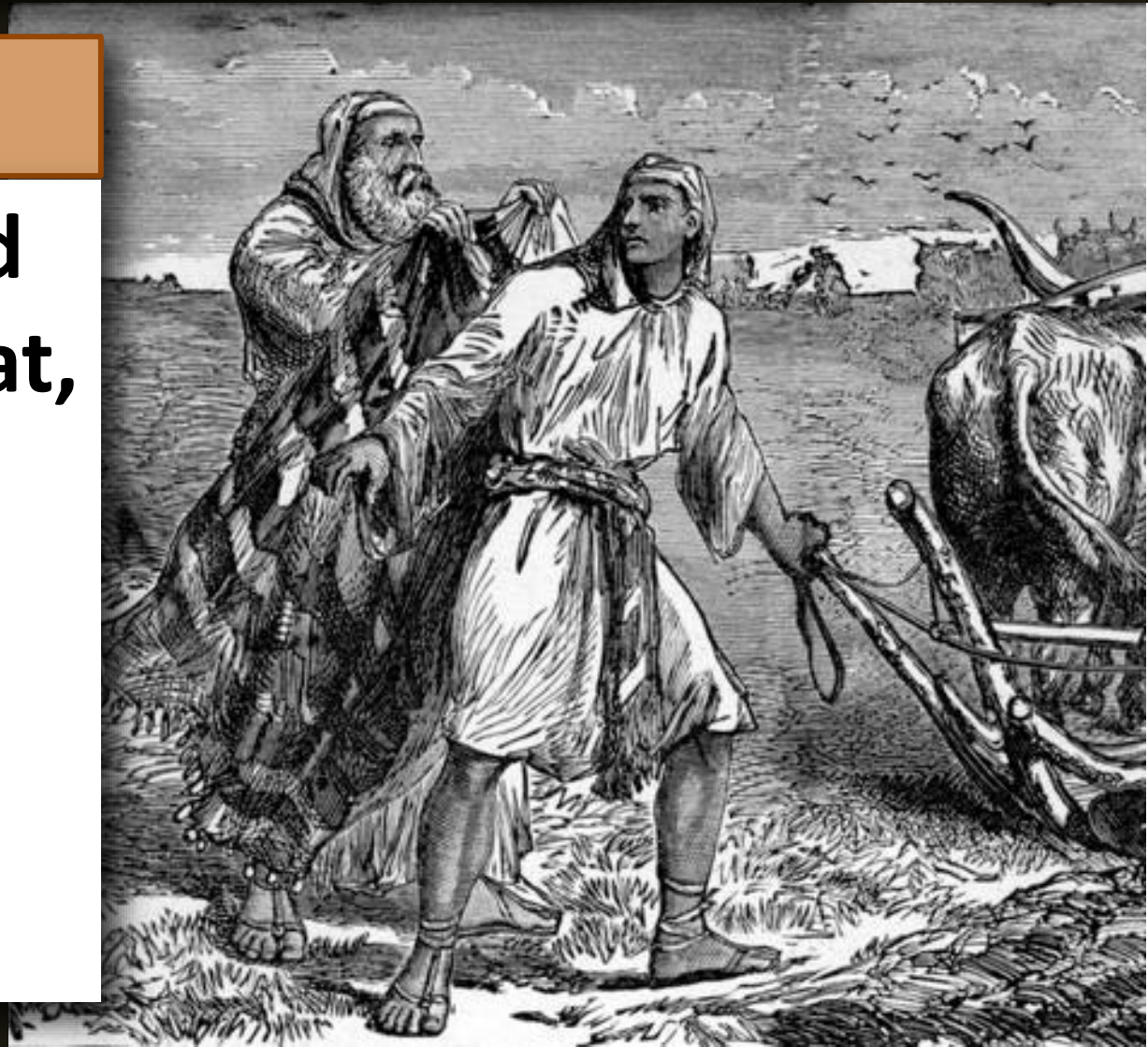
Relationship

The honor of a hard choice *illustrated*

A distinguished connection experienced

1 Kings 19:19 ESV

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.



A distinguished connection experienced

- Elisha's calling
 - His work
 - His wealth
- Elijah's commissioning
 - A signature item

A distinguished connection experienced



Ray Pritchard

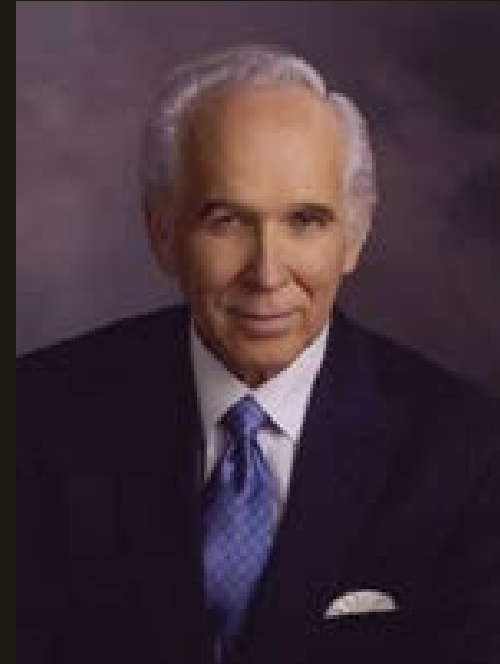
A mantle was the official garment of a prophet.

A distinguished connection experienced

- Elisha's calling
 - His work
 - His wealth
- Elijah's commissioning
 - A signature item
 - A symbolic intention

A distinguished connection experienced

Without any special fanfare or formalities, Elijah strode across the plowed ground toward Elisha. Whipping off his own mantle, already soiled with dust and dirt from his desert travels, he tossed it around the young plowman's shoulders.



Phillip
Keller

A distinguished connection experienced

- Elisha's calling
 - His work
 - His wealth
- Elijah's commissioning
 - A signature item
 - A symbolic intention

A difficult choice expressed

1 Kings 19:20-21 ESV

And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

A difficult choice expressed

- An important request

A difficult choice expressed

- An important request
- An intriguing response

Luke 9:61-62 ESV

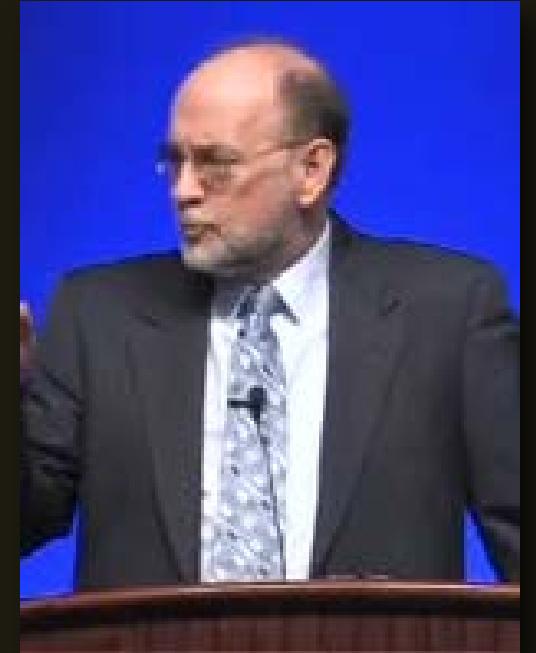
“Go back and say goodbye, for I have done something important to you. But think carefully about this; for your call is not from me, but from God.”

A difficult choice expressed

- An important request
- An intriguing response
- An irrevocable result

A difficult choice expressed

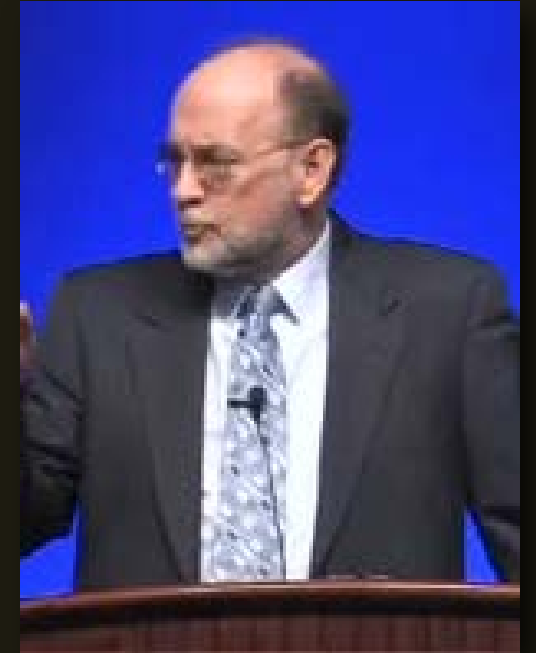
Unfortunately, many Christians today seem more like the man Jesus repudiated than like Elisha. Somewhere along the line, we got the idea that Christianity means God does everything for us and we have to do nothing for Him. . . .



Robert
Ellsworth

A difficult choice expressed

... We are content to serve Him, so long as it does not interfere with any of our plans or pleasures; but the idea of making a radical sacrifice for the sake of God's kingdom is utterly foreign to us.



Robert
Ellsworth

A difficult choice expressed

- An important request
- An intriguing response
- An irrevocable result

The honor of a hard choice *demonstrated*

Evangel's commitment

- We started from this place:
A strategic pastor

Evangel's commitment

As we seek God's leading and direction for the next chapter in our corporate life, it seems wise to include a discussion of pastoral transition in our plans. Specifically, being able to plan for the conclusion of my ministry will assist in clarifying other aspects of our strategy for the future.

Pastor Dave, August 2015

Evangel's commitment

- We started from this place:
A strategic pastor
A supportive people

Evangel's commitment

- We started from this place:
 - A strategic pastor
 - A supportive people
- We searched these paths:
 - Renewal
 - Realignment
 - Retirement

Evangel's conclusion

- This intention sought

We chose “mission over me” and “ministry over money.” Consistent with our history of fiscal generosity and mission focus, we are willingly surrendering our limited present for limitless possibilities.

Pastor Dave

Evangel's conclusion

- This invitation stated

Affirm His leading, acknowledge your loss

Carry your memories, continue your ministry

Evangel's conclusion

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also –
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever

A Mighty Fortress is Our God by Martin Luther