

# The Honor of a Hard Choice

1 Kings 19:19-21



ELIJAH

Evangel Baptist Church

3/26/2017 – [www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)

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This is a pdf file of the PowerPoint® notes for the message by Pastor Dave Tiejn on Sunday, March 26, 2017, continuing his series on Elijah.

# 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 calling

- The foes faced
- 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 calling

- The foes faced
- A friend found

Good definitions

Good design

Refreshment

Release

Reality

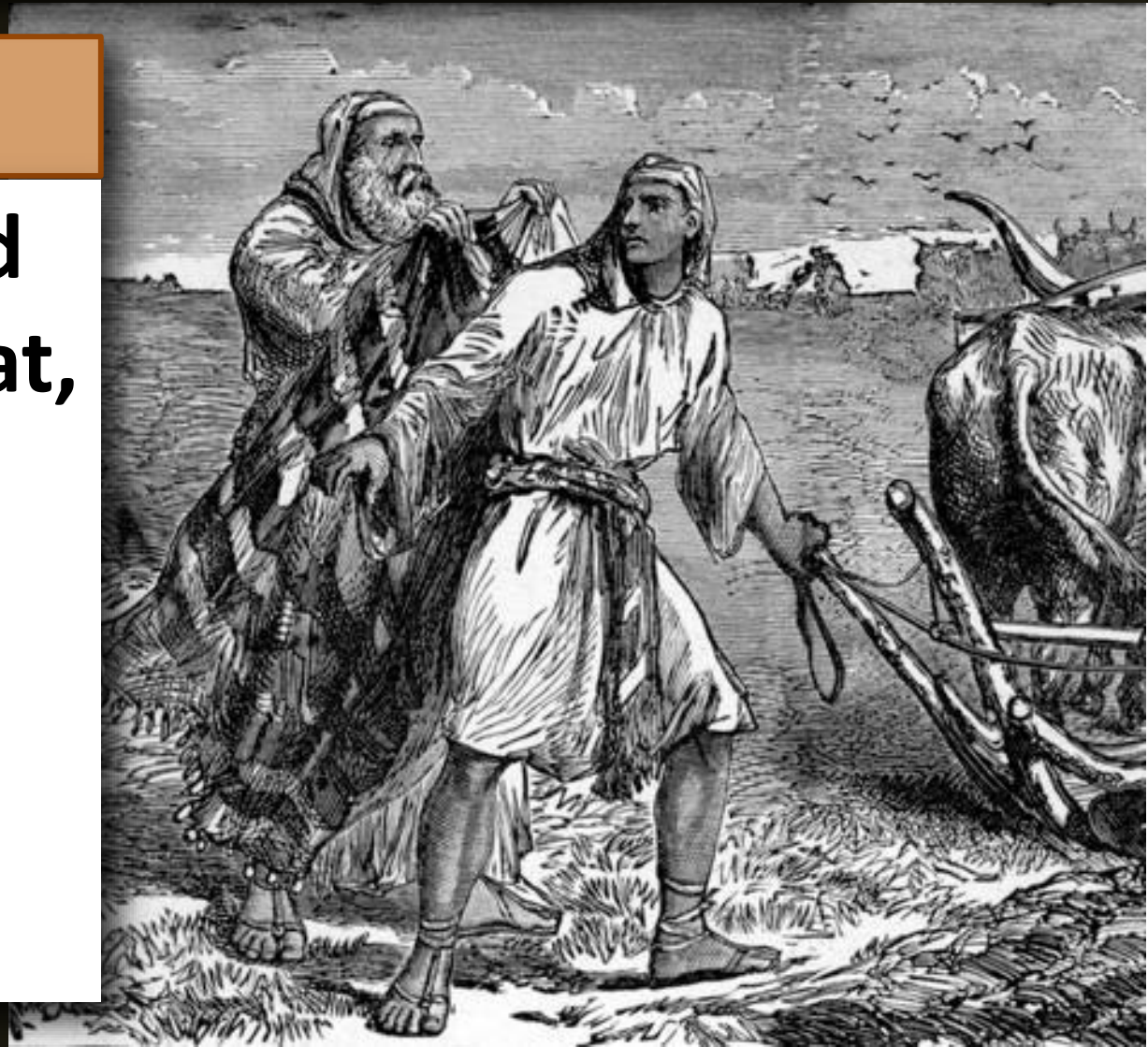
Relationship

# 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 difficult choice experienced

## 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 experienced

- An important request
- An intriguing response

### Luke 9:61-62 ESV

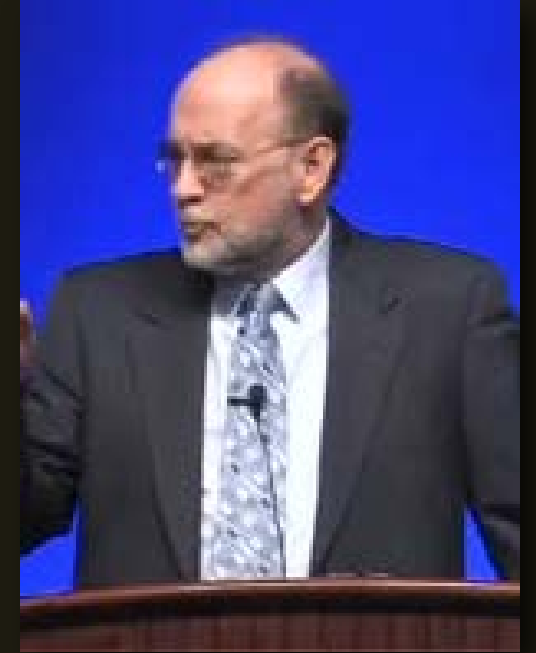
**Go back and say goodbye, for I have done something important to you. But think carefully about this; for your call is not from me, but from God.”**

# A difficult choice experienced

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

## A difficult choice experienced

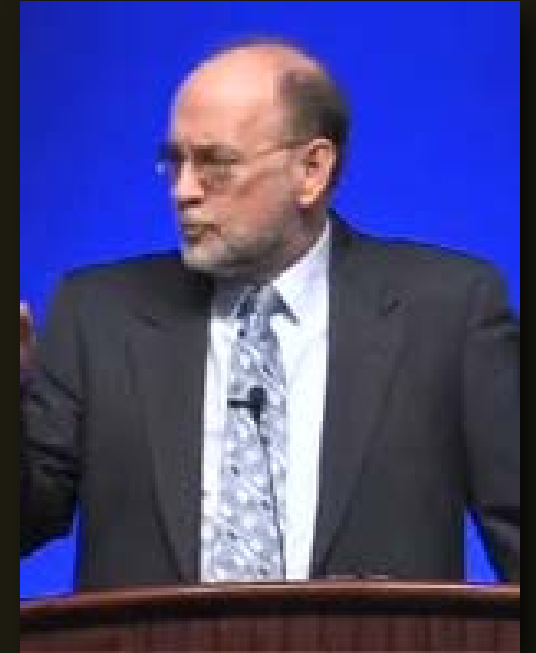
Unfortunately, many Christians today seem more like the man Jesus repudiated than like Elisha. Somewhere along the line, we got the idea that Christianity means God does everything for us and we have to do nothing for Him. . . .



Robert  
Ellsworth

## A difficult choice experienced

... 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 experienced

- 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
  - A supportive people
- We sought 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