

MAIN POINT

God desires and is worthy of our complete devotion. It is not enough to have Him as one of several masters we serve. He alone is Lord and King.

INTRODUCTION

How decisive or indecisive do you consider yourself? What contributes to this?

What about with God—in what way do we all have a decision to make when it comes to God? What other options might we choose instead of God on a daily basis?

At the time of 1 Kings 18, the Israelites had a choice to make. Rather than choosing to serve God or Baal, they wavered between the two. Some Israelites may have worshiped God as Israel's traditional God and also may have worshiped Baal, believing he would send the rains on time so the harvest would be good. Elijah told the Israelites they had to choose. God does not tolerate half-hearted or divided loyalty and service. When faced with the choice, the people said nothing. Some may have been content in their commitment to both deities. Yet, to fail to choose is to reject God. God requires our full devotion and is completely worthy of it.

DISCUSSION

> READ 1 KINGS 18:16-39.

What was Elijah's charge against the people? Why did the people need to decide between the Lord or Baal?

Why didn't the people say anything in response to Elijah (v. 21)? What attitudes could account for their silence?

Hesitating between two opinions is often a convenient way of delaying our submission to God. In what ways might our hesitation to give God our worship alert us to hidden idolatries in our life?

Read aloud Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13. Have you ever tried to serve two masters? What was it like?

What message was God sending to the people that day on Mount Carmel?

What are some examples of situations that may require you to stand for the Lord against opposition? What prepares you to take a courageous stand? What promises are given to the believer?

Look again at verse 39. What stands out to you about the people's response to Elijah's miracle? What did they affirm about God? What had changed between this verse and verse 21?

Think back on your spiritual journey. What is one moment that stands out to you when you proclaimed with confidence, "The Lord, He is God"?

APPLICATION

What is your biggest struggle in submitting yourself fully to God in faith? What are some ways we can keep our hearts from drifting toward other "gods"?