



CHOOSING THE BRAMBLE

ABIMELECH

- Judges 9:1-2 – The scheming of a would-be king, the spurned son of a concubine.
- Judges 9:3 – The acquiescence of a foolish people longing to be ruled.
- Judges 9:4 – The insecurity of a man who resorts to reckless, dangerous tactics to defeat his opponents.
- Judges 9:5 – The unbelievable becomes reality.
- Judges 9:6 – The coronation of a man who proves to be exactly as bad as predicted.



THE PARABLE OF THE TREES

BALLOT

- Bad Choice
- Worse Choice



JUST TO BE CLEAR

- I cannot tell you how to vote. But your decision must not be framed in terms of choosing the lesser of two evils. Such a choice is inconsistent with the Christian Way. After all, a vote for the lesser of two evils is still a vote for evil.
- We cannot let politics get in the way of our first duty, which is described in Matthew 28:18-20. If my options on the ballot are two evil people, then it is my responsibility to vote for neither. This is consistent with 1 Peter 2:13ff & 4:1-5. We must prove to be above reproach and slander, unexpectedly gracious and detached from carnal concerns.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- By all means, vote for whoever you like, but be willing to stand by that vote in the eyes of God.
- Remember, a vote is an endorsement. Paul felt incredible guilt for casting his vote in matters where he did not *directly* harm anybody (Acts 26:10). Approving of another's evil is no better than practicing it yourself (Rom. 1:32).
- Vote for a third party or write-in somebody who reflects your values. Remember, a president only lasts four years, but you have to live with your choices, and the attending integrity or regrets, for a lifetime (John 18:38-19:11).