

## Time to Pick a Side

The year was 1910, and a dreaded epidemic of infantile paralysis was moving across the face of the Western world.

Some of you may remember when polio was the number one fear of parents in this country. Polio strikes its victims quickly, starting out with painful muscle spasms and ending in partial or total paralysis.

Doctors had no idea how to treat the disease. But in a remote area of Australia, a young nurse named Elizabeth Kenny had found a treatment that worked.

When a friend's child showed signs of developing polio, Nurse Kenny ignored all the best medical advice of her time and tried a different treatment on the child. By morning, the child had improved. Then Kenny began treating other patients successfully, and she published her medical research on the disease.

But doctors all over the world ignored her success because they refused to believe a nurse could have come up with a better treatment than they could.

Finally, in 1950, Nurse Kenny's treatment for polio became the standard treatment worldwide. Before her death in 1952, Elizabeth Kenny was recognized by the American Congress of Physiotherapy with its Distinguished Service Gold Key. She was the first woman to ever be awarded this high honor.

But what if Elizabeth Kenny had never gone into nursing? That's what almost what happened.

When Kenny was just starting out in school, her fiancé didn't want her going into medicine. He told her she had to make a choice – marriage to him or her education as a nurse. Pick a side.



Kenny chose nursing. Imagine how hard it was to lose the love of her fiancé. But millions of people all over the world were healed because of her choice.

Sometimes, *you* have to make a choice. And in some cases, like with Kenny, the stakes can be high.

No doubt, each of you had to make a decision that was difficult to get where you are. Your role today is functioning as a leader in Life Care or Century Park. Perhaps there were those who counseled against such a direction. Maybe you moved to your present home location against the wishes of a loved one.

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But what you are called to do now, and where it required you to go, represents a commitment to the mission. Wholehearted commitment always creates tension. Complete commitment to one thing requires rejecting competing commitments. Certain options are off the table.

My prayer for you is that seeking and following God's will for you is bringing the peace, joy and contentment of obedience to the Father.

*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established (Proverbs 16:3 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter