

Joshua

Part 14 – A Choice to Make

Joshua 23-24

Choice to make: follow the LORD or follow other gods

Reason: Because of who He is

- He is the LORD your God
 - 13x in 16 verses – v. 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16
- He is holy (24.19)
 - He is unlike anything or anyone you know – other, purity, beauty, awe
- He is jealous (24.19)
 - Oprah – “can’t imagine a jealous God” – but we’re not imagining anything
 - Two kinds of jealousy – one of which is the moral fruit of love
- He is unbending (24.20)
 - You will not lower His standard – He cannot be convinced otherwise
 - “Can I get what I want if I whine enough?”

Reason: Because of what He’s done

- He has delivered (ch. 24)
 - This is His power on display
- He has provided (ch. 23)
 - This is His goodness on display
- He has kept His Word (23.14)
 - This is His faithfulness on display

Reason: Because if you drift you won’t follow

- An idea without intention is useless - OLYMPICS
- Make a consistent choice to follow
 - If you have better options, you can try them – but they always lead to brokenness
 - Evil = disappointed, angry, or offended by God
 - Maybe you find other gods attractive or find following the Lord too hard
- Jesus – you can’t serve two masters

Surrender to Him – give your life

Submit to Him – break the cycle

Serve Him – take the opportunity

Questions for Discussion:

1. When is a time in your life when you had to make a very difficult choice in order to keep following the Lord? What did it entail? What did it cost you? How did it end?
2. Reread Joshua 23. Can you find all 13 times Joshua uses “the Lord your God?” Why do you think the repetition is important? How have you seen God pursue you (or those around you)?
3. Does the concept of a Jealous God bother you? Can you think of examples where jealousy is virtue instead of vice? How might that help you understand God better?
4. Understanding that Jesus’ death and resurrection is the primary motivation for following Him, what are other times in your life where you can say, “I follow the Lord because He did _____ in my life?”
5. What is the most tempting master (other than the Lord) for you? How does that temptation arise? What is the outcome if you succumb? How do you most successfully fight it off?