

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

JOSHUA 24

Text: Joshua 24:15

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¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Introduction:

These were exciting times for the people of Israel. They had defeated their enemies and claimed the Promised Land. Each of the tribes had received their inheritance and now they could settle down and enjoy life a little. It was a time of hope, prosperity and blessings.

It was also a very dangerous time for these people! There was the danger that they would forget where they came from, how they had gotten to where they were and what the Lord had done for them. There was the danger that they would begin to adopt the idolatrous religion of the Canaanites who still lived around them. There was the danger that they would fall into a state of complacency, a state in which they

might feel that they could let down their guard just a little because of security, and substance.

These were dangerous times for Israel indeed! In the midst of this situation, Joshua stands up to deliver to the people a challenge from the Lord. God wants them to dedicate themselves to Him and to His work. He does not want them trying to live for Him on the one hand and the gods of Canaan on the other. He wants wholehearted dedication or nothing! That is the clear message of this passage.

It seems as if the majority of homes and families today have abundance of things. Individuals that have everything that they need, often lose their sense of the need for the presence, power, and glory of God.

We need homes and families who determine to serve the Lord.

Notice the message

1. A TIME OF CONTEMPLATION (VSS 1-13)

A. Contemplate God's Power in Their Lives
vs (1-12)

B. Contemplate God's Presence in Their Lives
vs (1-12)

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Matthew 28:20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

C. Contemplate God's Provisions in Their Lives
(vs 13)

Note:

In light of these truths, I wonder why so many of God's children seem to have a hard time just simply loving and serving Him as they should.

2. A TIME OF CONFRONTATION (VSS 14-15)

A. Confronted by A Command (vs 14)

Joshua's command was threefold.

1. Fear the Lord
2. Serve Him in Sincerity =
(Wholeheartedly) It is interesting that
serve is mentioned twice.

3. Put Away

B. Confronted by A Choice (vs 15)

1. It is an interesting way that Joshua states this choice. Why would anyone think it evil to serve the Lord?

C. Confronted by A Challenge (vs 15b)

1. Joshua sets the example.

2. We have too many who, by their lives, give justification for slackness in life.

Illustrations:

- Daniel (Daniel 1:18-19)
- 3 Hebrew Young Men (Daniel 3:1-30)
- Ruth (Ruth 1:16-17)

3. Does our life stand as a challenge to godly living, or as an encouragement to godless living.

3. A TIME OF CONSECRATION (VSS 16-28)

A. The Resolve of the People (vs 16-18)

B. The Reminder To The People (vs 19-23)

C. The Reaction Of The People (vs 24-28)

Note:

We must remember that God will hold us to our vows we have made and will make in the future.

Eccles. 5:1-7

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. [2] Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. [3] For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. [4] When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. [5] Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. [6] Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? [7] For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.