



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Four Ingredients of a Genuine Decision for God

Passage: Joshua 24:14-28

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Like the Israelites in the final days of Joshua's leadership, our society is torn—some stand firm in faith, others chase after the gods of culture, and many drift in the fog of indecision. Joshua's challenge echoes through the ages: it is time to move beyond half-heartedness and make a clear, wholehearted decision to serve the Lord.

"...How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him..." (1 Kings 18:21)

Reflecting on all that God has done is the only reasonable response to the overwhelming waves of His goodness.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

Joshua understood the human heart's tendency toward divided loyalties. His challenge is not about religion, ritual, or national identity—it was about wholehearted, unwavering devotion to God. A real decision for God demands more than emotion; it requires action. It demands commitment.

I. Stop Straddling the Fence - Decide Whose Side You're On



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Christ did not die so that we could live double lives. Joshua makes it plain: either serve the gods of the world or serve the Lord. There is no neutral ground.

II. Make It a Daily Decision - Not a One-Time Emotion

True faith is a daily choice. It doesn't depend on feelings or circumstances but on a consistent, intentional walk with God.

Emotion can start a decision, but only discipline sustains it.

III. Go Public with Your Faith - No Secret Disciples

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33)

If we are ashamed of Him before the world, why should we expect Him to acknowledge us before the Father?

IV. Follow Through with Everything You've Got - No Half-Hearted Devotion

God demands full allegiance. We cannot mix devotion to Him with allegiance to idols—be they money, pleasure, status, or comfort.

Every generation must make this choice again:

- Will we serve God out of convenience or conviction?
- Will we follow culture or Christ?

Conclusion: This is your moment. The time for hesitation is over. The Lord is calling you to a decision that reshapes everything—your heart, your home, your legacy. No more standing on the sidelines. No more wavering between two worlds. Step forward in faith and declare, without apology or reserve, "As for me and my



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house, we will serve the Lord.” Let today be the day you draw the line in the sand—your *burn the ships* moment—where there's no turning back, only pressing on in full devotion to the One who gave everything for you.



Bethany Baptist Church • 4402 40th Street • Lubbock, TX 79414
806.799.2464 • churchstillworks.org • Dan Preston, Pastor