



Discipleship Guide

Sermon: Becoming Bold

Speaker: Pastor John Eric Zayas

Date: September 14, 2025

Sermon Notes

A large orange circle is positioned on the left side of a light beige rectangular background. The words 'becoming' and 'bold' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. 'becoming' is on the top line, and 'bold' is on the bottom line, partially overlapping the orange circle.

**becoming
bold**

“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

“Por lo tanto, ahora entréguense al Señor y sírvanle con integridad y lealtad. Desháganse de los dioses que sus antepasados adoraron al otro lado del río Éufrates y en Egipto y sirvan solo al Señor.

Joshua 24:14 | Josué 24:14

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Pero si les parece mal servir al Señor, elijan ustedes mismos a quiénes van a servir: a los dioses que sirvieron sus antepasados al otro lado del río Éufrates o a los dioses de los amorreos, en cuya tierra ustedes ahora habitan. Por mi parte, mi familia y yo serviremos al Señor”.

Joshua 24:15 | Josué 24:15

WHO ARE THE AMORITES?

CENTRAL HILL
COUNTRY
(HEBRON,
JERUSALEM
REGION, GILEAD,
BASHAN)

OFTEN
PORTRAYED AS
TALL, POWERFUL
WARRIORS;
STRONG KINGS
(E.G., SIHON, OG)

SIMILAR
CANAANITE
FERTILITY CULTS;
SOMETIMES
CALLED “GIANTS”

POLYTHEISTIC;
WORSHIP OF EL,
AMURRU, BAAL,
ASHERAH; HIGH
PLACES, FERTILITY
RITES, IDOLATRY

**They held a syncretic belief
system that worshiped a
pantheon of “gods”.**

GENESIS 15:16.

His descendants would return to Canaan in the fourth generation, that is, after 400 years (see 15:13). A “generation” was the age of a man when his first son (from a legal standpoint) was born—in Abram’s case, 100 years (see 21:5). The land was not given to Abram and his descendants immediately because the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. Just how sinful many Canaanite religious practices were is now known from archaeological artifacts and from their own epic literature, discovered at Ras Shamra (ancient Ugarit) on the north Syrian coast, beginning in 1929 (see chart, KJV Study Bible, p. xix). ***Their “worship” was polytheistic and included child sacrifice, idolatry, religious prostitution, and divination (Deut. 18:9-12). God was patient in judgment, even with the wicked Canaanites.***

How were the Israelites to worship God?



“THROW AWAY THE FOREIGN GODS THAT ARE AMONG YOU AND YIELD YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL.” V.23

ISRAEL RESPONDED, “WE WILL SERVE THE LORD OUR GOD AND OBEY HIM.” V.24

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
Joshua 24:15

**14 Do not be yoked together with
unbelievers. For what do
righteousness and wickedness
have in common? Or what
fellowship can light have with
darkness?**

2 Corinthians 6:14

**15 What harmony is there
between Christ and Belial?
Or what does a believer have
in common with an
unbeliever?**

2 Corinthians 6:15

16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

2 Corinthians 6:16

17 Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”

2 Corinthians 6:17

**18 And,
“I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons
and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”**

2 Corinthians 6:18



**becoming
bold**

Key Takeaways

- God calls us to serve Him faithfully and reject false idols.
 - We must choose who we will serve - the true God or worldly idols.
 - Boldness in faith means standing firm on Biblical truth, even when it's uncomfortable.
 - The church is called to confront darkness and be a light in the world.
 - Serving God requires full commitment and may mean going against cultural norms.
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Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
 2. The sermon discussed the Amorites and their worship practices. How do you see similar "idols" or false gods in our culture today?
 3. Joshua declares "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What challenges do you face in fully committing your household to serving God?
 4. How can we balance being "in the world but not of it" when it comes to engaging with culture while staying true to Biblical values?
 5. The pastor emphasized the importance of boldness in faith. In what areas of your life do you struggle to be bold about your beliefs?
 6. How can we lovingly stand for truth without compromising, even when it makes others uncomfortable?
 7. What are some practical ways we can "push back darkness" and be a light in our spheres of influence?
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Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify one area where you've been hesitant to fully commit to God's

way. Make a plan to align that area with Biblical truth.

2. Practice sharing your faith boldly by telling one person about how God has worked in your life.
3. As a group, brainstorm ways you can serve the homeless in your community, inspired by the church's initiative.
4. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal any "idols" in your life that are competing for your devotion.
5. Memorize Joshua 24:15 as a reminder to choose daily to serve the Lord.

5-Day Devotionals

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: Serving the Lord with Boldness

Reading: Joshua 24:14-15

Devotional: Joshua's declaration "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" is a powerful statement of faith and commitment. In a world filled with competing ideologies and false gods, we are called to boldly choose God's path. Reflect on areas of your life where you may be wavering between serving God and serving other "gods" - whether they be cultural idols, personal ambitions, or worldly philosophies. How can you make a renewed commitment to serve the Lord wholeheartedly in every aspect of your life?

Day 2: Standing Firm in God's Truth

Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:16-17

Devotional: Paul reminds us that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. This freedom comes from turning to the Lord and having the veil of confusion and sin removed from our hearts. In a world that often promotes relative truth and moral

ambiguity, we are called to stand firm in God's unchanging truth. How can you cultivate a deeper reliance on the Holy Spirit to guide you in discerning truth from falsehood? Consider areas where you might need to courageously stand for God's truth, even when it's unpopular.

Day 3: God's Faithfulness in Our Journey

Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Devotional: God's covenant with Abram demonstrates His faithfulness and willingness to fulfill His promises, even when circumstances seem impossible. Like Abram, we may face situations that challenge our faith. Yet God remains faithful, working out His plan in ways we may not always understand. Reflect on times in your life when God has shown His faithfulness. How can remembering these moments strengthen your trust in Him for current challenges you face?

Day 4: Overcoming Darkness with Light

Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Devotional: As children of light, we are called to expose the fruitless deeds of darkness and live in a way that reflects God's character. This doesn't mean withdrawing from the world, but rather engaging it with the transformative power of the gospel. How can you be a light in your workplace, neighborhood, or family? Consider specific ways you can lovingly confront darkness with the light of Christ's love and truth.

Day 5: God's Presence in Times of Trial

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3

Devotional: God promises to be with us through waters and fires - symbols of life's trials and difficulties. This passage reminds us that even in our deepest struggles, God is present and active. He doesn't always remove the trial, but He walks through it with us, protecting and strengthening us. Reflect on a current challenge you're facing. How can you more fully trust in God's presence and guidance through this situation? Take time to thank Him for His faithful companionship in both calm and stormy seasons of life.