

# COURAGEOUS CROSSINGS

## LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSHUA

Sermon Series: Courageous Crossings: Lessons from the Life of Joshua

### The Valley of Decision

Text: Joshua 24

**Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025**

Joshua 1:9 – “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

### Truth for Today:

- God’s past **faithfulness** is the foundation for present **obedience**.
- **Divided** worship leads to **defeated** lives.
- **Choosing** God keeps us from **chasing** empty pursuits.

### Bottom Line:

It’s our **decisions**, not our intentions, that **determine** our direction in life.

**Joshua 24:14–15** “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. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

### 1. **Remember** Again (Joshua 24:1–13)

Shechem’s significance:

- Abraham’s first **altar**. (Genesis 12:6-7)
- Jacob’s **return**. (Genesis 33:18-20, 35:4)
- Joseph’s **burial**. (Joshua 24:32)

“So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.” (v. 13)

**Remembering** God’s faithfulness fuels spiritual **renewal**.

## II. **Renounce** Again (Joshua 24:14–20)

- Divided loyalty is **disloyalty**. Divided worship leads to defeated lives.
- **Matthew 6:24**, “No one can serve two masters.”
- You can’t **cling** to God while clutching your idols.

## III. **Renew** Again (Joshua 24:21–28)

- When you feel **far** from God, go back and **do** the last thing God told you to do.
- “You are not able to serve the Lord.” (v. 19)
- Grace means you can always **quit** again and **start** again.

### **Application:**

- Keep a **record** of remembrance of God’s **goodness** in your life.
- Identify one **idol** and replace it with a new **practice**.
- Re-up your **commitment** by doing what you know to **do**.

### **Reflection:**

1. What’s one story of God’s past faithfulness that you can write down and share this week?
2. What specific idol (money, success, comfort, approval, control, etc.) do you need to surrender — and what practical step will help you bury it?
3. What is the last thing God clearly told you to do, and what’s one step you can take this week to obey?

