

**The family that follows the Lord!**

**3.17.24**

**Joshua 24:14 “Therefore, fear the LORD and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if it doesn’t please you to worship the LORD, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship—the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.”**

**Observations:**

**--These really are his last words**

**--I will be addressing parents/care takers of kids (Adopted/grand/foster)**

**--He was not perfect as are no parents...**

**I. Joshuas bold statement.**

**“As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.”**

**II. Joshua’s recipe for a family that serves the Lord.**

**A. Joshua publicly declared his loyalty to the Lord.**

**Joshua 24:1 Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and summoned Israel’s elders, leaders, judges, and officers, and they presented themselves before God.**

**B. Joshua clearly indicated a healthy balance of fear and awe of the Lord.**

**Joshua 24:14 “Therefore, fear the LORD and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the LORD.**

**Joshua 24:27 And Joshua said to all the people, “You see this stone—it will be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words the LORD said to us, and it will be a witness against you, so that you will not deny your God.”**

**C. Joshua was bold and unapologetic.**

**Joshua 24:1 Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and summoned Israel’s elders, leaders, judges, and officers, and they presented themselves before God.**

**D. Joshua was decisive and clear about his choice regarding the Lord.**

**Joshua 24:15 But if it doesn’t please you to worship the LORD, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship—the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.”**

**E. Joshua gave them proof the Lord could be trusted**

**Promise of multiplication**

**Joshua 24:3 But I took your father Abraham from the region beyond the Euphrates River, led him throughout the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants**

**Promise of protection**

**Joshua 24:17 For the LORD our God brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery, and performed these great signs before our eyes. He also protected us all along the way we went and among all the peoples whose lands we traveled through.**

**III. A few parting shots on parenting.**

**A. A few from Pastor David Dykes**

- 1. Jesus Christ is the glue of the family**
- 2. Love is expressed every day**
- 3. The family eats and talks together regularly**
- 4. Time for family activities is a priority**
- 5. Each person is treated with respect and kindness**
- 6. Family members laugh together**
- 7. The family has learned to cope with adversity**
- 8. Everyone shares household tasks**
- 9. Money is managed wisely and discussed openly**
- 10. Children are disciplined with love and consistency**

**B. A few thoughts from the team at Cross Brand.**

- 1. Pay attention to who is influencing your kids.**
- 2. Pay attention to your kids souls!!!!!!**

**“If our children miss heaven...none of this other stuff matters.**

**Nothing..**

**Close:**

**“As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.”**

**Joshua**