

## Parting Shots

### Joshua 23

3.10.24

#### I. Follow the instructions!

**Joshua 23:6** “Be very strong and continue obeying all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you do not turn from it to the right or left

##### For us

The benefits of reading and follow directions. (Scripture)

We experience maturity

**I Peter 2:2** Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word,<sup>[a]</sup> so that by it you may grow up into your salvation,

We avoid mistakes

**John 8:31-32** Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you continue in my word,<sup>[a]</sup> you really are my disciples. <sup>32</sup>You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

#### II. Avoid the wrong people!

**Joshua 23:7** and so that you do not associate with these nations remaining among you. Do not call on the names of their gods or make an oath to them; do not serve them or bow in worship to them.

##### For us

**I Cor 15:33** Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

BUT what about Jesus and the sinners?

Why did Jesus hang out with sinners?

--Define hang out?

His closest friends were his disciples

--Jesus' motivation was spiritual change.....

He did not want them to go to hell.

--Jesus was never influenced in a negative spiritual manner by the unbelievers in his life.

He remained unchanged.

### III. Be loyal to the Lord!!!

**Joshua 23:8** Instead, be loyal to the LORD your God, as you have been to this day.

Loyal means..... "to cling, stick, stay close, cleave, keep close, stick to, stick with, follow closely" netbible.org

#### B. For us

--Are we loyal?

---How do we stick close? Here is a start

Read the word

Constantly pray

Surround yourself with other believers (that encourage)

---The benefits of sticking close

Peace

**Phil 4:8** Finally<sup>[a]</sup> brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things.

Perpetual change

**Gal 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control.

#### **IV. Pay attention!**

**Joshua 23:11** So diligently watch yourselves! Love the LORD your God!

#### **For us**

As a believer we have a common enemy who constantly wants to harm us/family/marriage/church

**John 10:10** A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

**1 Peter 5:8** <sup>8=</sup> Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

#### **V. Remember there are always blessings and consequences.**

**Joshua 23:9** “The LORD has driven out great and powerful nations before you, and no one is able to stand against you to this day.

**Joshua 23:16** If you break the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods, and bow in worship to them, the LORD’s anger will burn against you, and you will quickly disappear from this good land he has given you.”

#### **B. For us**

Misery

**Luke 22:62** And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Loss of influence in our “world”

**Matt 5:13** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty?<sup>Ⓜ</sup> It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

## Discipline

**Heb 12:7** Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?

## Loss of rewards

**I Cor 3:15** If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience<sup>Ⓢ</sup> loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.

## Close:

“Go on, get out! Last words are for fools who haven't said enough!”