

- **It all starts at HOME**

What does this mean?

What is the home?

What happens in a home?

Think with me for a minute...

- Big decisions are made
  - Who are we
  - Where are we going
  - What are we here for/ family identity
- Meals are shared
- Children are taught/ reared
- Homework
- Pets
- Referees and umpires are yelled at (can you believe the Umpire called that ball out of play when Hunter Renfroe knocked it out of play?)

But the key thing in my opinion that happens in every home is LEARNING!!!

Not just for kids For all of us. Every single one of us learns something everyday

The question for us is--- what is the source of our learning in the home?

Or is there a foundational commitment to teaching the Word of God in your home?

“this is who we are, and this is where we are going”

- Is there a “here we stand” mentality

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Is there a commitment to the Lord

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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THEME VERSE:

**Joshua 24:14-15** <sup>14</sup> “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Narrative Sermon:

- Who is Joshua?

**Deuteronomy 34:9** And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Who is Moses?

Pulled out of a basket and raised by Pharaoh’s daughter

Pharaoh didn’t know Joseph  
Pharaoh oppressed Israel  
Pharaoh told them to kill all male Hebrew newborns

Kills an Egyptian who was trying to harm one of his countrymen (Hebrew)

Meets the Lord at a Burning Bush

Has to go to Pharaoh and ask for him to release Israel so that he can lead them to the Promised Land

Passover

Red Sea—Exodus 14

Law—Exodus 32 and Exodus 34

Golden Calf

- What was Joshua tasked to do?

Joshua 1:1-9

- What did Joshua do?

Joshua 3 and 4—crossed the Jordan on dry ground

Joshua 6:24 Jericho

Joshua 10- the sun stands still

Joshua 10:12-14

- What is the theme of Joshua's life and work?

**Joshua 23:6** Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left,

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2 Things every HOME needs in 2022:

## A Joshua Choice (14-15)

**Joshua 24:14-15** <sup>14</sup> “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Why did we just cover all of this information?

Why did we just do an Old Testament lesson?

ANSWER:

- So that we learn from the past and serve the Lord!!

WE must be like Joshua and place a stake in our homes and say, “as for me and my house we will serve the Lord”

Joshua could make this statement because he had lived a life that continuously chose to **serve the LORD**.

CHOICES:

· Joshua *chose* to fight against the Amalekites – choosing when it might cost everything.

**Exodus 17:9-13** So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” <sup>10</sup> So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. <sup>13</sup> And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

· Joshua *chose* to reject the golden calf

**Exodus 32:17-20** When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” <sup>18</sup> But he said, “It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear.” <sup>19</sup> And as soon as he

came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup> He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

- Joshua *chose* to serve the Lord by serving Moses – choosing a humble place.

2<sup>nd</sup> in command

- Joshua *chose* to believe God's promise about the Promised Land – choosing against the majority.

**Numbers 14:6-10** And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup> and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup> If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." <sup>10</sup> Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

- Joshua chose to listen to the Lord and command the 12 men to go to the Jordan and cross on dry ground

**Joshua 4:21-24** And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' <sup>22</sup> then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' <sup>23</sup> For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, <sup>24</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.

- Joshua *chose* to recognize the leadership of the Captain of the LORD's army – choosing surrender to God.

**Joshua 5:14-15** And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped <sup>[c]</sup> and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" <sup>15</sup> And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

· Joshua *chose* to take leadership of Israel and lead them into the land – choosing faith instead of unbelief.

Joshua 24:15

**v. 15: BUT.....**

**Joshua 24:14-15** <sup>14</sup> “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**”

**d. But as for me and my house:**

This shows that Joshua also understood that he was charged with the responsibility to see that his whole **house** served **the LORD**. He had the job of representing his whole house before God.

i. The sense is that Joshua would do whatever was right and godly to make sure that his household did **serve the LORD**. They would serve Him together; it was “**we will serve the LORD.**”

**e. But as for me and my house:**

The word “**but**” gives the sense that Joshua was determined on this course no matter what anyone else thought.

His relationship with God was not based on any man, but on the LORD alone, and he would serve God no matter what anyone else did.

- Joshua’s decision meant *hesitation was gone*.
- Joshua’s decision meant *he lived above the evil influence of others*.
- Joshua’s decision was *deep, calm, clear, fixed, well-grounded, and solemnly made*.
- Joshua’s decision was *openly made*.
- Joshua’s decision was *earnestly carried out*.
- Joshua’s decision was *kept through his whole life*.

## A Joshua Commitment (19-24)

What is Joshua's Commitment? **We will serve the LORD:**

Inherent in Joshua's declaration is that he would **serve the LORD only**; he would not **serve the LORD and** someone or something else. There was one God in his life, and that God was the LORD.

This is what Joshua is telling the people in verse 19-24

**Joshua 24:19** But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins

a. **You are not able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God:**

Joshua is not trying to discourage their faith but rather, he is trying to discourage a light commitment to following the LORD.

They need to be reminded that they are serving God under a covenant that *promised* they would be cursed for disobedience.

- Jesus says the same thing in Luke 14

**Luke 14:33** So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

v. 20

Stop serving foreign gods and commit to serve the Lord

v.23 Put away all foreign gods

"Chad, we don't have any foreign gods that we worship in our homes"

## **WALK AWAY**

New Year's Resolutions:

YES!!!

Make a resolution for you and your house to serve the Lord

- You're not making a resolution to be perfect
- You're not making a resolution to be mistake-free, pain-free

You're making a resolution to follow Jesus in all that you do

And when you fail, you get back up and start again

YOU DON'T QUIT ON JESUS BECAUSE HE DOESN'T QUIT ON YOU

Let's make our homes the gateway between Earth and heaven!!!