

On Mission: Empowered for Outreach

Joshua's Last Words: Choose Who You Will Serve Joshua 23-24

Introduction: Joshua imparts his final message to the Israelites, emphasizing God's faithfulness and leading them in renewing their covenant with Him. Joshua's example offers a blueprint for us to regularly remember and recommit ourselves to God.

I. Joshua's Final Address to Israel (Joshua 23)

A. Reminder of God's Faithfulness

1. Joshua 23:3-5: Joshua reminds the Israelites how God has fought for them and given them victory over their enemies.
 - God's faithfulness in driving out nations and fulfilling His promises.
2. Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

B. Call to Obedience and Faithfulness

1. Joshua 23:6-8: Joshua urges the Israelites to be strong and obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses.
 - They must avoid idolatry and not intermarry with the pagan nations around them.
2. 2 Corinthians 6:14 - "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers."

C. Warnings Against Disobedience

1. Joshua 23:12-16: Joshua warns that just as all good promises of God have been fulfilled, so will His warnings if they disobey.
 - God's promises include both blessings for obedience and consequences for disobedience.
 - Historical examples: the fall of Jerusalem, which shows the consequences of disobedience.
2. Galatians 6:7-8 - "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

II. Joshua's Covenant Renewal at Shechem (Joshua 24)

A. Recollection of Israel's History

1. Joshua 24:1-13: Joshua recounts God's acts of faithfulness
 - God's providence and guidance through generations.
 2. Reflect on how God has worked in your own life and community, acknowledging His guidance and blessings.
- B. The Challenge: Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve
1. Joshua 24:14-15: Joshua challenges the Israelites to fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. He declares, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
 2. Call to Decision: Making a clear and deliberate choice to serve God wholeheartedly.
 3. Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money."
- C. The People's Response and Covenant Renewal
1. Joshua 24:16-18: The Israelites affirm their commitment to serve the Lord.
 2. Joshua 24:19-28: Joshua establishes the covenant, sets up a stone as a witness, and records the agreement in the Book of the Law of God.
 3. Hebrews 10:23-25 - "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess... And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." This encourages the community to remain steadfast in their faith and support one another.

III. Application for Today

A. Personal Reflection

1. Self-Examination: Are we fully committed to serving the Lord in all areas of our lives?
2. Renewing Our Commitment: Practical steps to serve God wholeheartedly, including daily prayer, regular Bible study, and active participation in a faith community.

B. Family and Community

1. Leading by Example
2. Church and Community Involvement

Conclusion: As we reflect on Joshua's final address, let us renew our dedication to faithfully serve God, recalling Jesus' last words before His ascension, urging us to go and make disciples, with the assurance that He is with us until the end of the age.

- **Personal Reflections:**

- Write down specific instances where you have experienced God's faithfulness:

- Identify areas in your life where you need to renew your commitment to serve God:

- Consider practical steps you can take this week to strengthen your relationship with God:

- **Key Takeaways:**

- God's faithfulness is unwavering and consistent.
- Obedience to God's Word is crucial in maintaining our relationship with Him.
- We must make a deliberate choice to serve God every day.

- **Commitment to Serve:**

- Write down your commitment to serve God in specific areas of your life:

- **Prayer Requests:**

- List any specific prayer needs you have or areas where you need God's guidance: