



*It's a
Wonderful
Life*

JOSHUA

COURAGEOUS FAITH IN THE GOD OF PROMISE

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. ⁴ And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau...

Joshua 24:1-15 (ESV)

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...And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. ⁵ And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out.

⁶ “Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. ⁷ And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt...

Joshua 24:1-15 (ESV)

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...And you lived in the wilderness a long time. ⁸ Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. ⁹ Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, ¹⁰ but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand. ¹¹ And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of...

Joshua 24:1-15 (ESV)

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... Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand. ¹² And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. ¹³ I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'

Joshua 24:1-15 (ESV)

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¹⁴ “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. ¹⁵ 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.”

Joshua 24:1-15 (ESV)

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Guidance for a Life of Faithful Service to God

Joshua 24

1. Remember how God has served you
2. Choose each day whom you will serve
3. Serve with the end in mind

Remember How God Has Served You

And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; *and they served other gods.* Then I took your father Abraham...
Joshua 24:2-3a



Remember How God Has Served You

I took...I gave...I gave...I gave...I sent...I plagued...
I did...I brought...I brought...I did...I brought...I gave...
I destroyed...I would not...I delivered...I gave...I sent...
I gave...

Joshua 24:1-13

Remember How God Has Served You

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights...

James 1:17a

What do you have that you did not receive? If then
you received it, why do you boast as if you did not
receive it?

1 Corinthians 4:7b

Remember *How* God Has Served You

Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

Joshua 24:3



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Choose Each Day Whom You Will Serve

Fear – Serve – Put Away

...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.

Joshua 24:15b

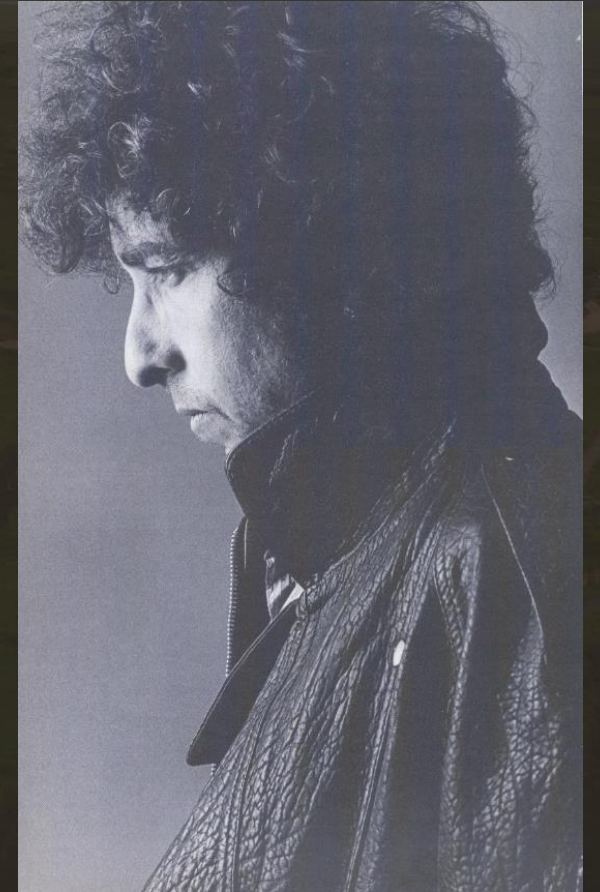
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Choose Each Day Whom You Will Serve

You may be an ambassador to England or France
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You might be a socialite with a long string of pearls

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the Devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.

Bob Dylan, "Gotta Serve Somebody" 1979



Choose Each Day Whom You Will Serve

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abad

work, serve, worship

Choose Each Day Whom You Will Serve

“Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god ... to worship... is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive...

...Look, the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful, it's that they're unconscious. They are default settings.”

David Foster Wallace, Commencement Address at Kenyon College, 2005

Choose Each Day Whom You Will Serve



Choose Each Day Whom You Will Serve

Joshua: Serve the Lord!

People: We will!

Joshua: You can't.

People: But we will!

Joshua: Okay... but be warned!

Summary of Joshua 24:14-28



Choose Each Day Whom You Will Serve

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, *purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

Hebrews 9:13-14

Serve With The End In Mind

Joshua's Post-Script: Three "Funerals"

Joshua – The Servant of the Lord

Joseph – Hope beyond death

Eleazar – Faithful behind the scenes

1. Remember how God has served you
2. Choose each day whom you will serve
3. Serve with the end in mind

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... choose this day whom you will serve...

Joshua 24:14-15



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