

A gravel path in a forest with trees and fallen leaves.

Joshua Series: The Journey of Faith

DECISIONS - DECISIONS

[Joshua 24]

(Joshua 24:1,2a; 13-18)

“Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel and for their heads and for their judges and for their officers; they presented themselves before God.

² Joshua said to all the people... This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says....

13 I gave you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you live in them; you eat from vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

14 "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; remove the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the [Euphrates] River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

15 If it is unacceptable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

16 The people answered, “Far be it from us to abandon (reject) the LORD to serve other gods;

17 the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs (miracles) in our sight and kept us safe all along the way that we went and among all the peoples among whom we passed.

*18 The LORD drove all the peoples out from before us, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.” **Amp***

(Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

¹⁵ “Listen closely, I have set before you today life and prosperity (good), and death and adversity (evil);

¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk [that is, to live each and every day] in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments (precepts), so that you will live and multiply, and that the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to possess....

17 But if your heart turns away and you will not hear and obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them,

18 I declare to you today that you will certainly perish. You will not live long in the land which you crossed the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore, you shall choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,

*²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding closely to Him; for He is your life [your good life, your abundant life, your fulfillment] and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD promised (swore) to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” **Amp***

People who have not developed “decision-making skills,” will have difficulty with making the right choices with life.

- **That development begins in our childhood.....**
 - ***(Prov. 22:6), “Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God’s wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Amp***

(2 Tim. 3:13-15), *“But evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

¹⁴ *But as for you, continue in the things that you have learned and of which you are convinced [holding tightly to the truths], knowing from whom you learned them,*

¹⁵ *and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings (Hebrew Scriptures) which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus [surrendering your entire self to Him and having absolute confidence in His wisdom, power and goodness].” **Amp***

The Three C's of “Choice”

1. **Clarify**= Clearly identify the decision to be made or the problem to be solved.
2. **Consider**=Think about the possible choices and what would happen for each choice. Think about the positive and negative consequences for each choice.
3. **Choose**=Choose the best choice

I. Clarify: Clearly identify the decision to be made or the problem to be solved (Josh. 24:14, 15),

¹⁴ “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; remove the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the [Euphrates] River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.....

*¹⁵ If it is unacceptable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” **Amp***

(Mat. 22:35-38), *“One of them, a lawyer [an expert in Mosaic Law], asked Jesus a question, to test Him:*

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ And Jesus replied to him, ““YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’

*³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.” **AMP***

I. Consider: Think about the possible choices and the positive and negative consequences for each:

(Josh: 24:16-20), ¹⁶ *“The people answered, “Far be it from us to abandon (reject) the LORD to serve other gods;*

¹⁷ *for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs (miracles) in our sight and kept us safe all along the way that we went and among all the peoples among whom we passed.*

18 The LORD drove all the peoples out from before us, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.....

19 Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the LORD [if you serve any other gods], for He is a holy God; He is a jealous God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]. He will not forgive your transgression [of His law] or your sins.

20 If you do abandon (reject) the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume and destroy you after He has done you good.” Amp

When all is said and done our ultimate service either is to the world or to the Lord: to God or to Satan. It is good to take some time and ask ourselves an honest question:

- ***“Who or What am I serving?”***
- ***“What is it that occupies my greatest attention?”***
- ***“What causes you to become most animated and passionate in your conversations?”***

I. Choose: Choose the best choice!

(Josh. 24:21-24), ²¹ *The people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve [only] the LORD.”*

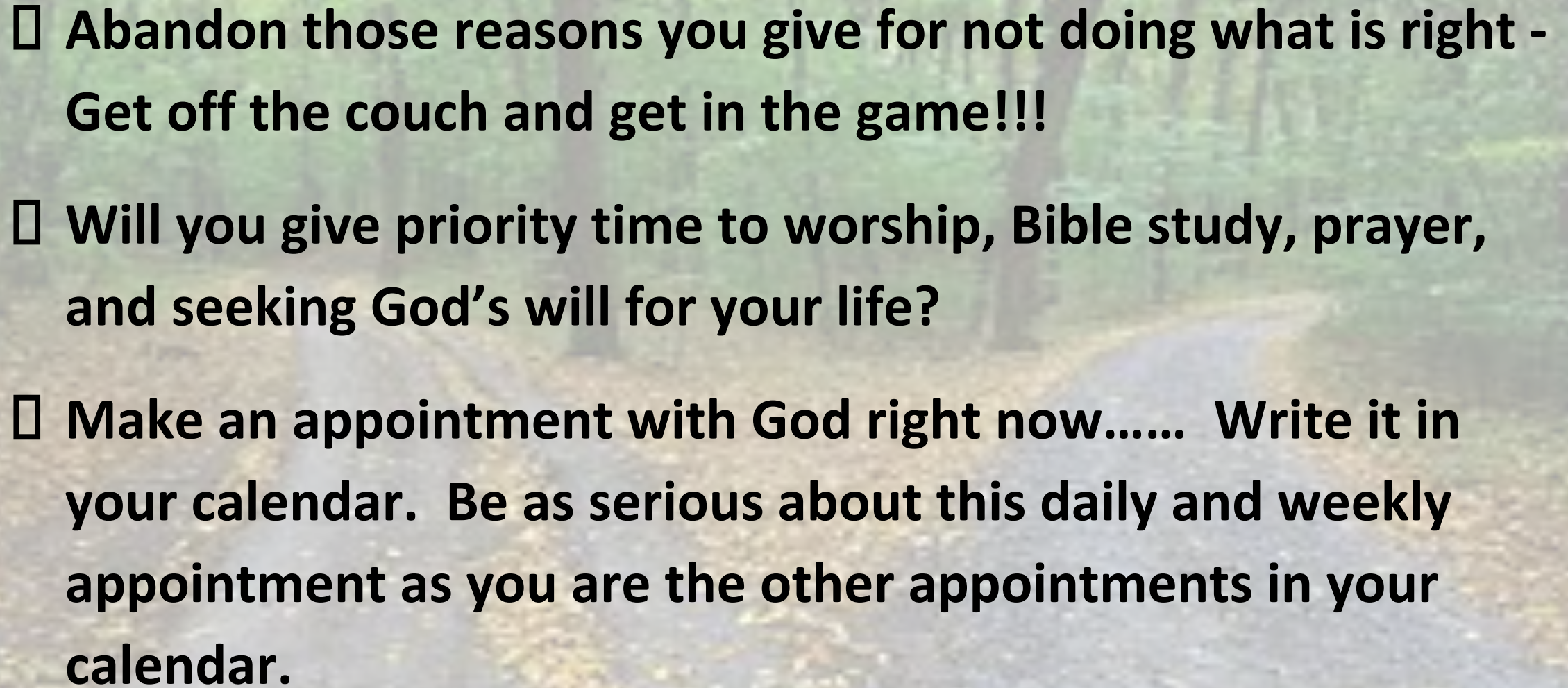
²² *Joshua then said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the LORD, to serve Him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”*

23 “Now then, remove the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your hearts toward the LORD, the God of Israel.”

*24 The people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and we will listen to and obey His voice.” **Amp***

The Lord desires us to make a serious effort in our commitment to Him:

- Will you take a hard look at your life, and root out all those things that stand between you and The Lord? Stop making excuses!**
- Will you make time to build your relationship with Him?**
 - Confront the things that are dragging you down.**

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- ☐ Abandon those reasons you give for not doing what is right -
Get off the couch and get in the game!!!**
 - ☐ Will you give priority time to worship, Bible study, prayer,
and seeking God's will for your life?**
 - ☐ Make an appointment with God right now..... Write it in
your calendar. Be as serious about this daily and weekly
appointment as you are the other appointments in your
calendar.**

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