

Farewell

I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome/online.** JM workshops are now up online.
- B. **Slide1 At-Risk:** There is no meeting this month **but** mark your calendars for our **next** meeting on March 17th from 3-5 pm in the Agape Room. Our topic is “*Protecting Our Children Online.*” Senior Investigator **Jason Polanco** and Senior Investigator **Joel Pabelico** from the **District Attorney’s Office** will be sharing about **the various ways exploiters target our kids online, and how parents can better protect them.** This workshop is geared toward parents, so it’ll be best to leave your kids at home. This is a must-hear presentation.
- C. **Slide2 Fostering a Hope Community:** Our next Foster/adopt support group meeting is next Wed night, Feb.21st at 7:00pm in the Agape Room. This support group is for anyone who is a foster parent or has, or is in the process of, adopting children.
- D. **Slide3 Prayer:** Quote: *You are only a tree in a story of a forest. And the story of the forest is better than the story of the tree.* [Donald Miller, *Million miles in a 1000 yrs*]
1. ***Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*** Psalm 90:14

II. Slide4 Intro: Farewell

- A. The final 2 chapters of the book contain **Joshua's 2 farewell address/speeches:** 1 to his leaders, **and** 1 to the entire nation, delivered at the end of his life.
1. The difference between your **résumé** and your **eulogy**: **One is what you say** about yourself and your accomplishments (résumé). **The other is about what others will say** about you regarding your relationships (eulogy)
 2. **But here** Joshua is not going to read us his résumé, **nor** recite/rehearse all **he** accomplished for **God as general and leader of Israel**, **instead** he magnifies the Lord! [he **was** a ***gifted and great leader*** ... **but** gave the glory to God]

B. The nation stands at a crossroads. Will they continue to serve the Lord and battle effectively against sin? Or will they yield, and suffer His judgment?

1. The greatest disaster to befall a nation is **not militarily, but morally**. The greatest attack is from within.
2. There is no third option, no way of ease. This life is one either of **battle, or of defeat**. May God give us courage to choose the way of **struggle and blessing**, not the way of **defeat and death**.

C. Slide5,6 *Read all*.

III. Slide7 **KEEP AND DO ALL (6)**

A. *Therefore, be very strong to **keep** and to **do all** that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses.*

B. In the book of **Judges**, you discover how their *incomplete obedience* led to *compromise* and *severe discipline* from the Lord. Where **Triumph** turned into *Tragedy*.

C. **Obedience** - Cringy? (Harsh dad, *you'll do as I say!*) **Ask:** Why is this important to God? What does it mean? What's another way to say it? *Submission to another's authority*. [dog obedience class: Rambo/Dobie vs. Gabby/Schnauzer] curbing your dog: not run into street.

D. How do we remain obedient? Next point.

IV. Slide8 **CLING TO (8)**

A. *But you shall **cling to** the Lord your God just as you have done to this day.*

B. You shall **cling to** - The Hebrew term *davaq* is elsewhere translated *hold fast, hold firmly to, to adhere, to be glued*, speaking of a tenacious loyalty to and trust in Yahweh.

1. **Eg.** It says of king Hezekiah in 2 Kgs 18:4-6 *And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). 5 He trusted in*

the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. 6 For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses.

a) Play on words: nāḥāš (snake) and nēḥōšet (brass).

2. *The root davaq* refers to **the soldering process** in Isa 41:7 *The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, "It is good"; and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved.* (i.e., a process in which things are joined together inseparably). [welding, base metal is fused]

a) Quick Self Evaluation: Are you **clinging** to Him? (Is there another word that would explain your relationship with Him better?)

C. How do we continue to cling to? Next point.

V. Slide9 **LOVE GOD (11)** good word on Valentines Day :

A. *Be very careful, therefore, to love the Lord your God.*

B. Why does **loving the Lord** lie at the heart of Joshua's final message to the nation of Israel? (Why not leave it with *Keep and do all?*)

1. At the heart of his speech (almost middle), Joshua challenged the people **to love the Lord their God**, which was *the heart of their duties as his people.*

2. **Everything else**, including the important exhortations to **obey** everything in the law (6) **and** to avoid pagan entanglements, **was a means to an end.**

a) Israel in the OT & the church in the NT should have a *close and loving relationship with its God.*

3. This exhortation is **rooted in Moses' words** in Deut 6:5 **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** It is the substance of what **Jesus** called the 1st and greatest commandment.

4. The constant exhortations to Israel to be faithful to God were not given in a sterile or harshly demanding environment. **Rather**, they were issued in service of *the larger principle* that God wanted a loving relationship with His people: He promised to be with them (beginning of Joshua, 1:9), and in return he desired *their loyalty* and *their love*.

C. **Illust:** I can choose to stop or not stop and help someone *fix a flat tire* on the side of the road. I am **not** under obligation.

1. **But I cannot choose to stop** if it is **my wife** or **one of my kids**. I am under the obligation of our relationship *to love & meet their needs, as best I can*.

2. **Relationship obligates me** to fulfill the terms of the obligation ... **but it is an obligation/duty of love**.

D. (12,13) **The flip side if you choose not to love Him?** - re-read

E. The **nations** were their enemies, **How do we fight our enemy today?**

1. James said, **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

2. You don't start with *resisting the devil*.

F. **Thorns in your eyes** - *Cross my heart and hope to die, stick a needle in my eye.*
Playground promises.

G. **How do we continue to Love God?** Next point ... *remember* ...

VI. Slide 10 **PROMISES PROMISES (14)**

A. *Not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you.*

B. **The Promises of God are conditional and unconditional.**

1. **Fulfillment of an unconditional promise rests solely with the Lord.**

a) One example is God's covenant to never again destroy the entire earth by flood (Genesis 9:11).

b) In Heb.13:5 God says: *I will never leave you nor forsake you*. For the true believer, even though he may sin and disappoint God, God will always be there to love and support him.

2. On the other hand, if a promise is conditional, fulfillment depends on certain requirements being met. The transaction can be expressed as an “if-then” statement.

a) James 1:5-7 tells us that if we request wisdom from God by asking in faith without doubting Him, then He will give it generously.

b) Matthew 6:32-33, Jesus promises that if we seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness, then everything we need will be provided.

C. Slide11 God did not intend His promises to be used by us *pulling them out at random for a quick blessing*, or to be taken as a ‘spiritual aspirin’ so that all our problems disappear.¹

1. Ask: Why Did God give us promises? Why do we make promises?

a) As kids we said, *Cross my heart and hope to die, stick a needle in my eye*. Playground promises.

2. The promises of God are given so that we can come to know the God of the promises.

3. They are there to show us more of who He is and what He is like.

4. They are there to take hold of our hearts and minds and draw them to Himself and into His way of thinking and acting.

5. They are there to get us so familiar with Him that it becomes 2nd nature to us to call on His promises in the ordinary everyday events of life, just as Jesus did, and to see our lives transformed as we do so.

D. Wrap Up:

E. Think about it, we serve a God who can actually come through, on all He has promised.

¹ Beaumont, M., & Manser, M. (2020). The Handbook of Bible Promises (p. 7).

F. You are writing your own *farewell speech* right now. What will it sound like?

G. Keywords: promises, love, cling,