

## We Will Serve the Lord

### Joshua 24:14-18 (NRSV)

24 <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Giving honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the men, women, and children of God. This morning we are blessed with a visual into the life of the Israelites and the renewal of the covenant to serve God. Our topic is “We Will Serve the Lord.”

Joshua is blessed with the great task of presenting the Israelites with a major question. Whom will you serve? Joshua told the people to choose which God they would serve, they answered that they wanted to serve the Lord. What was interesting to me was that Joshua’s mind was already made up as to what he was going to do. You see in verse 15, Joshua states, “Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the river or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.**”

Joshua replied that they weren’t able to serve him because he was a Holy, Jealous God who wouldn’t just overlook their rebellious ways and their sins (Joshua 24:19). Have you ever paused and reflected on the Goodness of the Lord. You see, I believe that Joshua knew at least 10 things about the Goodness of the Lord, which allowed him to make his

decision immediately regarding him, his household, and who they were going to serve. (I feel my help coming on) I believe that Joshua knew that:

1. God is Love
2. The Lord has never lost a battle
3. God is more for you than the whole world against you
4. He was above and not beneath
5. The Lord will fight your battles
6. The Lord is a Waymaker
7. God Is Faithful and Just
8. God is a Provider
9. God is a Comforter
10. God will supply All of your needs according to His riches in glory

I believe that these 10 things only scratch the surface of what Joshua knew about God. What do you know about God? Can you list 3, 5, or 10 things that you know about Him? Can you give God praise? Has he brought you from a mighty long way? Somebody ought to say Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

I came to remind you of something profound this morning. Now, you can serve God because he has forgiven your sins through Jesus Christ. John 3:16 teaches us "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

He is still a Holy God. He still becomes jealous when your heart turns from Him to other things, so be wise and repent. In Revelation 3:19, the word shares "I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent."

If you would allow me to use my theological imagination, I believe Joshua's mind was made up and his heart was surely fixed. He and his house would serve the Lord because God had touched his heart and God can truly reach the masses (people near and far). He had been serving the Lord for a long time and he was not tired yet!!! Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

In closing, the songwriter says, "**I've been running for Jesus a long time... And I'm not tired yet.** Have you been running for the lord a long time? Tell somebody, I'm not tired yet. Hallelujah!!! I promised Him that I would serve Him 'til I die. NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO, I'm Not tired Yet. Stand to your feet and tell the Lord "Thank You." You've never left me, nor have you forsaken me. Nooo, I'm not tired yet. I've been serving the Lord for a long time; I'm not tired yet.

Beloved, take the opportunity to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior. He is the gift of promise. Romans 10:9-11 teaches, <sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For

with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.