



# JOSHUA

## NEW BEGINNINGS

NCCC

## Choose Whom You Will Serve

Josh 23-24

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➤ Hook

### ❖ Reminds Them Of God's Faithfulness

- Joshua summons all Israel (23:1-2)
- "God gave you and will give you blessings!" (23:1-5,9-10, 14)
  - Paul: being confident (Phil.1:6)
  - 1 Thes 5:24
  - Heb 13:5
- Keeping the big picture of salvation history (24:2-13)
  - Paul: (Eph. 1:3ff; Rom. 8:28)
- Too often we're near sighted, not seeing God's big picture in our lives.

### ❖ Joshua Commands Them To Faithfulness

- Clear commands (23:6-8; 24:14, 23)
  - *Be strong* (6)
  - *Careful to obey* (6)
  - Three "*Nots*" (7)
    - associate
    - invoke
    - serve
  - *Hold fast* (8)
  - *Love* (11)
  - *Fear* (24:14)
  - *Throw away* (14)
  - *Throw away & yeild your heart* (23)
- I must respond in faithfulness
  - All heart affection stuff
    - God will do the land stuff
    - but you must respond
  - Turn the faucet on, connect the line
  - Jesus: Jn 15:5-8
  - Paul: (Rom 12:1-3; Eph 4:22-31; Phil 2:12-13)
  - Our "ultimate concern" is our god
  - "Where your treasure is. . ."

### ➤ Warns Them Against Unfaithfulness

- Warning
  - But...(23:12-13)
  - Promise is two edged (15-16)
- Many things are this way, in fact most
  - must be used as intended
  - Good news implies the presence of bad news. . .

- NT
  - Rom 11:22-24
  - Heb 2:1-3; 3:7-19; 6:4-9; 10:19-39; 12:14-27
    - Wait a second, I don't know if I like this
    - Problem
    - Not paper tigers: "he just says that, but doesn't mean it."
    - Aslan is not a tame lion.
    - "Lord of your life" or "Lord of the Flies"

### ❖ **Decision Moment (24:14-16)**

- There are not too many big decisions in life
- Its decision time to choose either:
  - the God life
  - the self life
- "Choose This day Whom You will serve"

### ❖ **Thinking It Through**

- Joshua reminds the people of God's faithfulness.(Josh 23:1-5, 9-10,14)
  - Paul, in the New Testament tells us of God's faithfulness (Eph 1:3ff, Romans 8:28)
  - Too often we can't see the big picture of God's faithfulness - We can only see our problem.
  - If you can relate, share an experience in your own life where God was faithful but you couldn't see it at the time.
- God commands us to be faithful, in his strength not our.
  - (Josh 23:6-8, 14:14,23)
  - Where does Jesus or Paul ask us to be faithful?
  - What other words does the New Testament use besides "faithful"? (e.g. Eph 4:22-31 and Phil 2:12-13)
- God warns against unfaithfulness:
  - Joshua 23:12-13,15-16
  - Hebrews 2:1-3, 3:12-14, 10:19-31
  - Why do we not like this part?
  - Why is it good for us?
- There are a few moments in life where big decisions are important. Why are they?
  - Joshua:
    - 1) the oath: 24:15-24
    - 2) the document: 24:25-26
    - 3) the symbol: 24:26-27
  - Explain how our big decisions make little decisions easier.