



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Great Decision

Date: June 16, 2024

Scripture Text: Joshua 24:14-15

Notes:

Happy Father's Day! In celebration of our dads today, we look at a challenge Joshua gave the people of Israel. This same challenge is for us today. Joshua is nearing the end of his life. He has succeeded in the task God gave him; to settle the Israelites into the promised land. He is now giving them words of wisdom and wants the next generation to realize their need for God. In a similar way, we must realize our need for God as well. When things are going well, no health issues, plenty of money in the bank, a good job, and comfortable house, it is easy to forget that need ([Prov. 30:7-9](#)). Joshua's words ring true back then as they do today when he says, "choose for yourselves today whom you will serve". This is our great decision, who we choose to serve. Before Joshua calls the people to make their decision, he gives them a description.

I. The Description of Life in Christ ([Joshua 23:1, 5](#))

"For the Christian, the message of God's work of redemption and blessing on behalf of his people resembles God's work of redemption in Christ and the blessings of the Christian life. While Christians may enjoy these, they are called to lives which are faithful to the teachings of their master. It is only through faithfulness that Christians can continue to enjoy the divine blessings" (Hess). In [Joshua 23](#), four features of the life in Christ are mentioned.

- Separation ([Joshua 23:6-7](#))
 - The Israelites were instructed to drive out the occupants of the land of Canaan. God knew they would be a bad influence on them. Joshua challenges them to "keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses". This will help them stand against the temptations of the culture around them.
 - How can keeping all that is written in the word of God help the Christian stand against the temptations of our culture today?
 - How can the Christian separate themselves from the culture, yet stay influential on the culture?
 - What does it mean to be 'in the world, but not be of the world'?
- Consecration ([Joshua 23:8](#))
 - The Israelites were to cling (hold fast, cleave) to God. This demonstrated their commitment to God and is a reflection of those who are consecrated (sacred).
 - How does the term 'consecrated' (make or declare sacred) apply to a Christian?



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- How is a Christian consecrated?
- How can clinging to Christ demonstrate our consecration?
- What does it look like to ‘cling to Christ’?
- **Adoration** ([Joshua 23:11](#))
 - Joshua continues his instruction by telling the Israelites to “take diligent heed” (take great care) to love God. The love described is a covenantal commitment to God and His word.
 - How do we show God, we love Him? ([John 14:15](#))
 - How can loving God be a motivator for obedience?
 - How can we find the motivation to love God? ([1 John 4:19](#))
 - How did God demonstrate His love for us? ([Rom. 5:8](#))
- **Reflection** ([Joshua 23:14](#), [24:2-13](#))
 - Joshua encourages the Israelites to remember the word and the works of God. By doing so, they would be encouraged and would have the courage to live a life committed to Him. It is by this reflection that faith can be built ([Rom. 10:17](#)).
 - List a promise God gave in His word.
 - How can reflecting on this promise be a faith-builder for you?
 - List a work of God in your life.
 - How can remembering God’s work be an encouragement for you?
 - How do you reflect on the word & works of God?

II. The Decision to Surrender Life to Christ ([Joshua 24:14-15](#))

After the description Joshua gives in [chapter 23](#), he challenges the Israelites to make the decision to serve God. To serve God means to 1. fear God ([Josh. 24:14a](#)), 2. follow Him faithfully ([Josh. 24:14b](#)) and 3. forsake foreign gods ([Josh 24:14c-15](#)).

- Describe what it means to fear God.
 - Where does [Prov. 9:10](#) say wisdom starts?
- Describe characteristics of the Christian that follows Christ faithfully.
 - What can you do to be a more faithful follower of Christ?
- What are examples of foreign gods in our culture today?
- What could be the temptation for the Christian not to forsake these foreign gods?
- What is the danger of not forsaking them?

If serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose you this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!

Will you commit this day (every day) to serve the Lord?