

“LET’S GATHER AT SHECHAM”

Delivered to DANVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Wednesday Night Sept. 14th 2016

Elder Jeff E. King Th.M.

Joshua 24:14-26

¹⁴ **Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth:** and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

¹⁶ And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;

¹⁷ For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

¹⁸ And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

¹⁹ And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

²⁰ If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

²¹ And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

²² And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye are witnesses against yourselves** that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, **We are witnesses.**

²³ Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.

²⁴ **And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.**

²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

Note: Israel gathered at Shechem to refocus on the Lord. {Also known as Consecration}

Vs. 14- The clear option- not a decision between two options

Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

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Vs. 15 – Joshua’s example

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**. A challenge is the being of someone else’s devotion.

Vs. 18- Israel’s hasty commitment.

And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: *therefore* will we also serve the LORD; for he *is* our God.

Always beware of false or hasty commitments.

Mt,8:19-20

And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ²⁰ And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head

As if to say; don’t even bother, you won’t last.

Vs.19- Disarm that self-righteousness

And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye cannot serve the LORD**: for he *is* an holy God; he *is* a jealous God; **he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins**.

Ego, in discipleship and theology should be left at the door.

Vs.20- Let’s refocus on God! Insistence!! God will not be mocked

If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then **he will** turn and **do you hurt**, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

The AGREEMENT

Joshua 24:24.

²⁴ And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

Does not sound like a modern "invitation.

It seems almost as if Joshua were daring his people to attempt the impossible.

Note:

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At least we are safe in saying that he did not minimize the difficulties in living a life of obedience to God.

Yet the people were sufficiently convicted to commit themselves in agreement with Joshua to serve the Lord their God and to obey His voice. **Vs. 21-26**

Vs. 21-26

And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD. ²² And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye are witnesses against yourselves** that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, **We are witnesses.** ²³ Now therefore put away, *said he*, the strange gods which *are* among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. ²⁴ And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. ²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a **great stone**, and set it up there under an oak, that *was* by the sanctuary of the LORD.

Landmark: great stone, and set it up there under an oak should not be moved.

Prov 22:28: Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

Prov 23:10: Remove not the old landmark.

Best advice I can give you is:

Commit to God’s standard & leave them alone.

Preached:

GMBC Frankfort 4/17/13 Wed