

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

Jos 24:15

September 19, 2010 AM

Joshua has gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem, a city just north of Shiloh, and they gathered themselves before the Lord. It is good for all people at times to appear before God, look back on the way through which he hath led them, recount his goodness, renew their engagements to serve him, and seek that grace which they need to do it in spirit and in truth. Joshua in his last days is trying to dissuade the people from the worship of idols and idolatry.

In verse 14 he says: **Joshua 24:14 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.**

I would like to look at 5 things regarding Joshua's most quoted statement, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord:

1. **DECISION:** A decision had to be made. Joshua had to make a decision for his family. They could have decided to fall into idolatry like the others. But he chose a different path. We all here today need to make many decisions every day. Some decisions are life changing, some not so much. But this was an important decision for Joshua's family, just as it is ours. Joshua said, "Choose you this day!" Elijah in 1 Kings 18:21 asked the people to make a decision; **1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.** Their silence was their decision. Moses in the book of Exodus asked the question, who is on the Lord's side? **Exodus 32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.** Choose you this day! If you are not saved this morning, you have a decision to make. Accept Christ as your Saviour or continue to reject Him. But you will make that decision before the morning is over. So we must make a decision regarding our house, and our lives.

2. **DETERMINATION:** There was determination in the voice of Joshua this day. He said, "But as for me..." As for me ... I am responsible for my house and my life, so as for me... I'm going to make this decision. **As for me**, I'm going to follow God and not after false gods. **As for me**, I will not stray from God's laws and commandments. **As for me** I will serve the Lord with all my heart. **As for me** I will seek the lost that I might win some. **As for me** I will trust God for my provisions. **As for me**, I will witness to the lost. It takes determination to make the "as for me" decision. Solomon was determined to build the house of the Lord (2 Chron 2:1). Paul was determined to know nothing about the church at Corinth except Christ and Him crucified. He could care less about all the nonsense going on in that carnal church. He was resolute, determined to preach Christ and Him crucified. Joshua was determined .. **As for me**...fill in the blank.

3. **DICTATOR:** "...and my house". Not just me .. but my house, meaning my family and all those that dwell in my house. We don't like that word dictator because it has very negative connotations. We don't like dictators. But when it comes to our home, our family, we must make determined

decisions for them and sometimes that will seem a bit dictatorial. The word dictator simply means: Absolute ruler. To command or control with authority. **Genesis 18:18-19** Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. If that describes me as a dictator, then a dictator I am. **Ephesians 6:4** And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We need to be dictators by God's definition, not man's. God will hold us men accountable on that judgment day by how we ruled our households. But as for meand my house!

4. **DIRECTION:** "...we will serve the Lord!" Which way will we go? God's way! We will serve the Lord. Tonight we will learn what it was to be a model servant. How should we serve the Lord? **Psalms 100:2** Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Serve the Lord with Gladness! **1 Samuel 12:20** And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; Serve the Lord with all your heart! **Psalms 2:11** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Not that we are to be "afraid", but with reverential fear and respect. **Colossians 3:24** Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. We serve a personal, Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. But that must be the direction in our lives .. to serve the Lord!

5. **DETACHMENT:** Then, there should be a detachment. Look at vs 23: **Joshua 24:23** Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. Joshua said to PUT AWAY the strange gods and incline or point your hearts unto the Lord. Remove the world in your life and attach yourselves to the Lord. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour there should be a detachment of the old things in our lives and an attachment to the things of Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. We are to "grow up" in Christ: **1 Corinthians 13:11** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. There needs to be a detachment to the things of the world. **2 Corinthians 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

Joshua made a determined decision that he would dictate the direction of his home and detach himself and his family from the world's systems and the world's idols. I think it makes a pretty good roadmap for all homes today. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Moses asked God's people to make a decision. Those who made the wrong decision met their fate. God is asking His people to make a decision. Which side of the fence are you sitting on today? Are you trying to straddle it? Elijah asked, "how long will you halt between two opinions?" Jesus said, "because you are lukewarm (unable to make any decision) I will spew you out of my mouth." If you are not saved, make the decision today to accept Jesus as your Saviour. If you can't make that statement, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" .. make that decision today.