

Men's Sunday Night
A Study in the Book of Joshua
Lesson 14 - Joshua 24:1-33
The Abundant Life
Joshua Speaks to the People

After encouraging the leaders, Joshua calls all the people together at Shechem, a place dear to the heart of Israel since it was at Shechem that God first promised the land to Abraham. Here also, Jacob built an altar and he exhorted his family to put away their idols. While there are no “holy places” on earth, there are places that spark special memories to the believer.

Joshua was concerned that the people not fall into idolatry because of the influence of the heathen nations around them. Israel was prone to worship idols, and Joshua knew that idolatry would cause them to give up their inheritance. So he uses several arguments to encourage them to devote themselves completely to the Lord.

Joshua goes all the way back to the birth of the nation in the call of Abraham. Abraham and his father were idolaters until God called them in His grace. God called Abraham, not because of his goodness, for he was a heathen man, but because of God's grace and love. God gave the land to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God protected the Jews in Egypt and then delivered them by His mighty hand. He led them and provided for them in the wilderness. He defeated nations for their sake. He brought them over the Jordan River into the Promised Land and drove out the enemies before them. What more could God have done for His people! Now they had claimed their inheritances and were enjoying the blessings of the land. How they ought to love and serve the Lord. Now it is Joshua's turn to lay a choice before a new generation and call them to renew their covenant before he departs.

As we close this book, may we not forget that Christ is our Joshua (Savior), and that He fights our battles for us and helps us claim the inheritance.

Read Joshua 24:1-33 and Answer the Following Questions:

1. Verse one says “*Then Joshua gathered.*” What happen right before this?
2. Who was Joshua speaking to? Why?
3. Why does Joshua review the history of Israel? What lesson could they learn from their history?
4. What conclusions did Joshua reach based on their history? (See 24:14)
5. What lessons can we learn by reviewing family histories?
6. What choice did Joshua give them in verse 15?
7. What attitude does Joshua show in this verse with the statement “*but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*”?

8. Do we have this same choice in our lives today? What is the better choice for us as believers? What could the result be of choosing to serve or not serve the Lord?

9. What does Joshua mean in verse 19 when he says: “*You cannot serve the Lord*”?

10. Do you have a desire to serve the Lord? In what way?

11. In a few words, what would you say the book of Joshua is all about?

12. What truths did you learn from studying the book of Joshua that you can personally apply to your life?

Do We Really Own Anything?

Joshua 24:13

Do you own your own possessions or do they own you? The Lord told Israel, “*I have given you the land*” Joshua 24:13. This indicates that the land ultimately belonged to the Lord. Israel took possession of it as a gift from His hand, a resource to be treasured and managed wisely. Elsewhere, Scripture states that all our possessions as human beings ultimately come from a good God.

- The earth itself, with all of its resources, is a gift from God (Gen. 1:29-31; 2:15; 9:2-3; Ps. 8:6-8).
- The ability to work and earn a living is a gift from God (Deut. 8:18; Ps. 8:6).
- The capacity to enjoy the basic elements of life: (Food, Family, Work) is a gift from God. (Eccl. 3:13; 5:19).

However, these gifts do not come without condition. Like anything else in the world, God’s gifts are temporary. Someday we will give an account for what we have done with and to them. (Gen. 9:5; Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).

Like Israel to Canaan, all of us are called to a life of thankful dependence on God and stewardship of the resources He has given us. What are you doing with God’s gift to you? Are you serving Him and serving other people with equality and compassion at home, on the job in your community?