

Where Is Your Household?

August 26, 2018 – Joshua 24:1-4; 14-16; 18b

“Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says. Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. ... Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then chose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Then the people answered, Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! ... And the Lord drove out before us all the nations including the Amorites who lived in the land.’” (Joshua 24:1-4; 14-16; 18b)

God was and is active in fulfilling His promise to send a Savior into the World.

God had called Abraham to leave his home land and to go to a place where HE would show him.

God had delivered the nation of Israel from slavery and the hands of their slave drivers, the Egyptians.

God had sustained the Nation of Israel in the Wilderness by providing Manna & Quail for 40 years.

God had delivered the nations of Canaan into the hands of the children of Israel and God was giving them the Promised Land the Land flowing with milk and honey.

In return what simple request did God make?

“Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then chose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.”

God was asking the people to get rid of their garbage and commit themselves to HIM.

We hear Joshua’s familiar response that even if the nation of Israel does not follow the Lord, Joshua says: **“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”**

How many people simply go along with the crowd? How many people simply say: “Everyone is doing it.”

Why not DARE TO BE DIFFERENT?

Worship the Lord in His house, even when the crowds do not?

Avoid sex outside of marriage, even when you see that celebrities or your neighbor does not seem to value marriage.

When your friends are getting drunk, stay sober. When your neighbors are getting high on drugs, say NO!

When other drivers cut you off and yell obscenities, just smile, when your family refuses to worship the Lord regularly in Joint public worship service on Sunday, go to the House of the Lord anyway.

Avoid unhealthy practices that the crowds follow and instead stand with Joshua and follow the Lord God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, all the days of your life. AMEN!