

October 12, 1995

As For Me and My House

Josh. 24:1-16

Introduction:

1. Josh. 24:1-16 2. Joshua was a man of conviction, who knew the God he served  
• Joshua saw the Ten Plagues in Egypt including the death of firstborn • Joshua saw the Red Sea part and the Egyptian soldiers perish • He was at Mt. Sinai at the making of the covenant and giving of the Ten Commandments; he felt the mountain shake • He was one of the twelve spies who saw the land of promise, one of only two who brought back a good report. When Israel wept in fear, Joshua tore His clothes over their lack of faith. "We are well able to overcome it!" • Joshua led the army of Israel around Jericho for seven days and witnessed the walls fall down flat • Joshua now 110 years old knew God had never failed him; knew that God's promises were always kept (Josh. 23:14)  
3. Joshua demands the people renew their commitment (24:17-24) 4. The result of their commitment (24:31)

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#### I. People who Led their Houses to Follow God

1. Noah lived in a totally corrupt world but saved his family; he lived in the worst of societies (Gen. 6:5-8). God found nothing worthy of redeeming but this one man. "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time. Noah walked with God." (6:9)

2. Mordecai, the uncle of Esther, in a time when all of Israel was threatened prayed and asked Esther to risk her life for her people.

• where would Israel have been had Mordecai not raised Esther with a knowledge of God?  
• we need people today who realize their responsibility to train their children in the faith

3. Cornelius "called together his relatives and close friends" when Peter came to his house in Caesarea. His faith was not private; it was to be shared with his family.

4. Lydia, of Thyatira, whose heart was opened by God when she heard the apostle Paul with the other women down by the river in Philippi, was baptized along with her household.

• Here was a woman, out of town, but leading her family to the Lord • Male or female, we each can make an impact on those around us

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## II. You Too Will Make Choices As a Christian

1. Every generation will make its choices to follow the Lord (Judges 2:7,10). There arose another generation that did not know the Lord but served the gods of the nations around them.

•God had to discipline them over and over •God had to awaken them from their spiritual stupor •We are but one generation away from apostasy

2. Some decisions we make that may not seem big but affect our lives and our homes spiritually:

•Do we attend church every time the doors are open? •What do we allow to keep us from coming regularly? Too tired, television, out of town frequently, weather •Do we attend worship only? Are we on time? •Do we pray together every day? •Do we read the Bible, discuss Bible topics regularly? •Do we have devotionals in our homes with all the family? •Do we give as we have been prospered? •Do we have good religious books in our home? for the children? •Do we choose Christian entertainment on television? radio? movies? •Do we ever allow smoking, drinking, swearing in our homes? •Do we spend time finding fault with church, fellow Christians? •Do we ever invite people to come to church?

3. Rom 12:1,2 we need to be careful not to allow the world to overwhelm us so that we lose what we have gained in Christ.

4. As parents we teach more by what we do than by what we say! Don't make a rule for your children that you are unwilling to keep yourselves.

5. Set the example! Paul said: "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1) Parents, your kids will imitate you.

•Your attitudes and outlook on life •Your faith and morality •Your respect for God, others, authority •Your priorities •Your love and commitment to God •"Train up a child" (Prov. 22:6) is more than teaching •We do more good by being good than any other way! We do more harm by being bad than any other way!

6.Small compromises today will lead to a loss of respect for God tomorrow. We would never tell our children these things, but our compromises teach our children:

- You must not allow your religion to interfere with doing what you really want to do.
- Never go out of your way to worship God.
- Church is not as important as work, school or sports.
- It really doesn't matter which religion you follow as long as you are sincere and devout.
- A good job making money is the most important thing.

7.Double messages are when we say one thing and act another. We must be careful where we place our priorities.

- The best secular education but little emphasis on knowing God.
- Social advantages but little time on Christian values of kindness, honesty, love and integrity
- Much on appearance little on character

8.Once we begin to compromise our faith, our morality, our practices, it becomes easier to do so in other areas of life. We can eventually end up believing nothing.

9.Saddest passage of the Bible: Hosea 4:6

my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

"Because you have rejected knowledge,

I also reject you as my priests;

because you have ignored the law of your God,

I also will ignore your children.

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Conclusion:

1.Most horrible thought I can imagine is to wake up in hell and hear a voice behind me

saying, "Daddy, daddy, is that you? Oh daddy, I always thought we'd go to heaven."

2. Most wonderful thought I can imagine is to wake up some day in heaven and hear a voice behind me saying, "Daddy, daddy, I'm so glad to see you again."

3. Josh. 24:15 "Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...; but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

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