

A FAREWELL SERMON

Text: Joshua 24:14-18

Joshua's

INTRODUCTION: Ill- of weeds reappearing--roots have only been cut over--always coming up again.

This is the way it is with sin and old habits. There must always be new calls for fresh dedications.

This is Joshua's farewell address to his people--about to die--after years of ministry among them--he is still fighting the old weed of idolatry. After all this time (since the Exodus) there was still a great amount of idolatry among the people and a strong tendency towards it. Joshua knew this; he knew there was a suppressed fire among them liable to burst into a blaze. He must bind them over by every consideration to renounce wholly all recognition of other gods and to make the Lord the only object of their worship. The theme of his sermon is loyalty to Jehovah.

[In all Joshua's ministry there were some who had never really served the Lord. "If evil...choose who you will serve..."]

APPLICATION TO US: If it seem evil--bad--some act that way; they shrink from service as a rattlesnake. Some here have never served--have no conception of service. Who will you serve? Choose this day.

THREE IMPERATIVES FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

I. The Basic Attitude God seeks in every heart, FEAR THE LORD.

1. Three kinds of fear of God.

- (1) Superstitious, which the fruit of ignorance.
- (2) Servile, which leads to abstinence from many sins through apprehensions of punishment.
- (3) Filial, which has its spring in love, and prompts to care not to offend God and to endeavor in all things to please Him.

2. The fear of God means that God is constantly in the center of our thoughts, and life is characterized by the all-pervasive consciousness of dependence upon Him and responsibility to Him.

3. It is the opposite of forgetting God. This fear would exist were there no punishment for sin. It dreads God's displeasure, desires His favor, reveres His holiness, submits cheerfully to His will, is grateful for His benefits, sincerely worships Him, and conscientiously obeys His commandments.

4. No fear--a disregard for God. No love for God to guide conduct--Fear seeks not to offend. It is a dam holding back turbulent waters. Irreverence is the mother of evil.

5. "The fear of the Lord" is used for the worship of God--No worship, a fruit of no fear.

II. The positive issue of this fear, SERVE THE LORD.

III. There were other claimants for the service of Israel beside God. The Chaldeans gods, Egyptian gods, and Amorite gods.

1. Motives for this service--choosing a master. *why? v. 14 - "Now therefore..." point back to motive*
- (1) Which has the greatest claim upon us?
 - (2) Which is the most worthy to be served?
 - (3) Which will bring the greatest advantage?
 - (4) Which will give the most inward satisfaction and peace?
 - (5) Which will exercise best influence on my character?
 - (6) Which comes recommended most by old servants who have walked with both?

I've not found another worth my service

Basis for this call to service is God's work on their behalf. Joshua relates their history. It emphasizes the truth that everything of greatness in the history of the people was the result of Divine action.

2. The Meaning of this service.

To labour, the service of a slave, to worship. Worship is not just sitting in church on Sunday morning. It is labouring for Christ on Monday morning. The highest form of worship is service.

a cup of water in my name = unto me

worship primary purpose of church - argue about it

3. The Manner of this service.

- (1) In Sincerity: complete, whole or entire, no part lacking; unblemished, honest. *harmony between external & internal qualities*
Christians in catacombs wanting to get into the coliseum. Divided hearts, divided loyalties. Service should not be blemished with sin, etc.
- (2) In Truth: firmness, certainty, faithfulness--Stick to the job this year. *Rahab = a sign that will be created on*
- (3) Individually: "As for me..."
Personally
a. Whatever others may do, he will not flinch from his duty. If every individual would do his job and not worry about someone else the work would be done.

III- Peter and Jesus--John 21

- b. Be prepared to stand alone--Joshua is prepared to stand alone rather than dishonor the living God. Are you? At home, etc school, church?

Begin 3rd pt w/ v. 19: Joshua's response -
They said the right words, but no evidence they meant it, not
turning out; one idols

III. The Negative issue of this fear, PUT AWAY.

This is separation from former life and sins. "Other side of flood (River)." Before redemption. After River received a new God and put away the gods of the former life.

1. Put away means to backslide--from sin and the world.
2. Dig into our life and cut everything out that is foreign to grace.

How = Incline heart to God to avoid

CONCLUSION: They said, "We will serve." Joshua then demands a practical proof of their sincerity. Vs. 23--"Now therefore put away..." Do something about it now--express your choice.

Two reasons for this demand: (1) The people were not
and shepherded in the pasture of the Lord; (2) The Lord
and His people are terrified in the presence of God.

vs 19 = the people responded too eagerly to his
charge - note of levity - lightly-made vow.
X refused to be bound under false pretenses.

Joshua's warning = turns on two points -
C the extent of the obligations they took
D the heavy penalties of their infraction.

Nature

Acts

1. What is the nature of the obligation?
(1) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(2) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(3) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(4) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(5) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(6) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(7) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(8) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(9) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.
(10) The obligation is to serve God with all the heart, mind, and strength.