

A Father's Decision

Sunday Morning, June 19, 2016

(Joshua 24: 14 – 18)

14 “Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!

15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

16 So the people answered and said: “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods;

17 for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.

18 And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.”

Fathers make your decision.

- ✠ Be rational and decisive, carefully processing your thoughts. Make a solid commitment to follow the Lord, or to follow idols (i.e. people or things).
- ✠ If you choose to follow God, reaffirm that decision every day by praying, “Lord help me to follow you today!”
- ✠ Regardless of what others have decided...if you have decided to follow the Lord (like Joshua committed to do), then live your life as one completely surrendered to God.

(More points on next page)

1

(Flip)



- ✠ As a man, your decision to follow Jesus as your Lord will affect those around you, and as married men with families your faith in God will impact them in countless ways, as we will see later in this message.
- ✠ In addition to this, the more men and families that decide to follow the Lord Jesus as their God the more impact of God's protection and blessing we will see on our country!

Fathers live your lives focused on your Heavenly Father!

(Isaiah 63:16)

Doubtless You are our Father,
Though Abraham was ignorant of us,
And Israel does not acknowledge us.

You, O Lord, are our Father;

Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.

In Israel, the faithful remnant acknowledged the Lord their God as their Heavenly Father.

Personal Testimony:

- ✠ I adopted God as my Heavenly Father at an early age.
- ✠ I've encouraged our children to remember they have their Heavenly Father to trust in.

Continuing our focus on our Heavenly Father, consider these following verses:

(Matthew 5:16)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 6:9)

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

(Romans 8:15)

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

2 (Turn Inside Out)

- ✠ Remember, God was the Father of Israel. Moses was His Representative. Like Moses, all Fathers were intended by God to represent Him to their families as their Heavenly Father.
- ✠ As you have made the decision to follow God, do so by leading your family in His ways as His Representative!

Father's know the impact of your faith on your families.

(Exodus 20: 4 – 6)

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,
6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

- ✠ Fathers if you have chosen to put others or other things as a priority above loving God first, then the impact on your children will not include God's blessings on them.
- ✠ If you as Fathers decide to follow the Lord your God, then you will teach, lead and direct your children to follow His way of righteousness.
- ✠ Blessings on your children for a thousand generations and your descendants will have God's favor (mercy, blessing) upon them! A thousand generations of countless blessings on them because you chose to follow God your Heavenly Father first in your life!

Someone has said, "A boy loves his mother, but will follow his father."

I would like to share a touching story about a humble, consecrated pastor whose young son had become very ill. After the boy had undergone an exhaustive series of tests, the father was told the shocking news that his son had a terminal illness. The youngster had accepted Christ as his Savior, so the minister knew that death would usher him into Glory; but he wondered how to inform one in the bloom of youth that he soon would die. After earnestly seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, he went with a heavy heart through the hospital ward to the boy's bedside.

First he read a passage of Scripture and had a time of prayer with his dear child. Then he gently told him that the doctors could promise him only a few more days to live. "Are you afraid to meet Jesus, my boy?" asked his devout father. Blinking away a few tears, the little fellow said bravely, "No, not if He's like you, Dad!"