

As for me and my house...

Joshua

- Leader of the people after Moses died
- Led them into Promised Land
- Marched in faith around Jericho
- Guided and Governed
- Holy, but far from perfect

People had a choice

- Joshua makes it crystal clear
- You can't have it both ways
- You can't have the cake and eat it too
- You can't sit on the fence
- You have a choice to make

Joshua 24: 14-15

“So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors (fathers) worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

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- Choose to go as your family has gone or choose to go your own way

Brother Don's comment

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- Wesleyan-Armenians (Methodist & Baptist* tradition)
 - We hold tightly to God's hand with choice to let go

Very passionate choice

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Very passionate choice

- Where you fall in this “choice of theology” impacts what you do as well as what you believe
- But either end of this spectrum leads to extremism that is hardly glorifying to God

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- Leads to strongholds of spiritual superiority
 - Part of the elect

Super-passionate Armenian

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 - The evidence of my internal holiness is my outward appearance

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- Joshua lived in a time a lot like ours
- Culturally, there was depravity all around
- Nation of Israel had incredible potential, but it had to choose to follow God
- Joshua knew though that each man, woman and child had a choice to make individually
 - Whose hand are you going to hold onto
 - Whose hand do you trust to hold yours?

But Joshua also saw the
consequences of choices made

- You follow the culture or you follow God

But Joshua also saw the consequences of choices made

- You follow the culture or you follow God
- You can't always do it like Grandpa did, because if Grandpa wasn't following God, his way won't lead you to Him

Joshua also saw the persuasive power of a person who is sold-out

- This is what we are following

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- This is what we are following
- This is who we are

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- This is what we are following
- This is who we are
- This is what we are doing

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 - Legalism is not holy or spiritual

Leading with strong passion, but free will

- The conundrum of free will
- If it is demanded, it is not a choice
 - Legalism is not holy or spiritual
- If it is meaningless, it is not a choice
 - Predestination diminishes power of the Cross

Fathers who follow God

- Choose to follow Him

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- Avoid strongholds of legalism and permissiveness

Fathers who follow God

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- Avoid strongholds of legalism and permissiveness
- Stewards of what God has trusted you with
 - Family
 - Home, property, inheritance, etc.
 - Business or career or job

Fathers who follow God

- Responsible for **spiritual** growth and instruction

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- Responsible for **emotional** nourishment of relationships
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- All fathers have this responsibility whether they follow God or not

In the absence of fathers...

- Others step up to the plate

In the absence of fathers...

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- Pray for the Father to be father to the fatherless

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- Pray for the Father to be father to the fatherless
- Regardless, each individual chooses what path they are on - whose hand they hold and whose hand holds theirs

Joshua knew what to do

“After the death of Moses the Lord’s servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant. He said, “Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. I promise you what I promised Moses: ‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates

Joshua knew what to do

“River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.’ No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. “Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey”

Joshua knew what to do

“all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left.

Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command —be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” *Joshua 1:1-9*

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