

Worship Guide for March 29,2020 – Pastor Joseph Lehmkuhl – Joshua 23-24

Introduction

Two Questions:

1. *What does a man like Joshua do as he approaches the end of His service to Israel as its leader?*
2. *What is it about Joshua's final words, that are so compelling and inspiring for us as the people of God?*

Joshua 24:14-15 presents a goal for every follower of God:

To be a people of wholehearted service to God.

How do we get there?

1. Remembrance (Joshua 23:1-5)

The Setting: Israel has received the inheritance and been given peace. Joshua, now old, is calling the leaders together to preach to them one last time.

Remember:

1. God's mighty _____ on our behalf.
2. God's blessing in _____ and _____.
3. Their story is _____ story.

Reflect: *How has God acted, intervened, delivered and blessed you, your family, and West Side Church?*

2. Exhortation (Joshua 23:6-11)

Joshua's 4 (ish) exhortations:

1. Be very _____ and _____ perfectly.
- The world's definition of strength is built on personal ability rather than on God's ability with our obedience.
2. Do not _____ with other nations.
-This includes serving their gods, swearing by their gods, and bowing down to their gods.

Why would Israel serve their Egyptian gods when Yahweh has proven to be great and stronger?

3. _____ to the Lord.
4. Be very _____ to love God.
-To love God requires careful planning, guarding, and deliberate living. We suffer from ADHD when it comes to loving God.

Reflect: *Whose job is it to exhort? Was the nation of Israel able to remain faithful through Joshua's exhortations alone?*

3. Promises & Warnings (Joshua 23:9-16)

God promised blessings for those who obeyed and judgement for those who disobeyed. **Is this still true for us?**

1. God's promises build our _____.
2. God's warnings sober our _____.
3. Both hope and fear are important _____ that God uses to keep His people while they live in this life.

Reflect: *What promises build your hope, and what warnings sober your fears? Are you balanced in these two areas?*

4. Covenant Renewal (Joshua 24:1-28)

The Setting: Shechem is important historically:

- Genesis 12:6 – Abraham’s first altar in Canaan.
- Genesis 35:4 – Jacob buries household idols.
- Joshua 8:33 – Covenant Renewal after Ai and Jericho
- Joshua 24:1 – Covenant Renewal after inheritance.

That God begins with Abraham, and not Moses or Joshua, shows us that the story of our redemption begins long before we are born.

Q. What is our equivalent practice of “covenant renewal”?

A. _____

Reflect: *When you take communion, are you taking the time to remember the full story of your redemption? Are you thinking about ALL that God has done to save you?*

5. Rooting Out Idols (Joshua 24:14-24)

The Problem of Idolatry

Despite all that Israel had been through, and their general faithfulness, the idols of Egypt remained in their midst.

1. In order to serve God wholeheartedly, all of the _____ in our hearts must be destroyed.
2. The great problem of the Old Testament and the Law is found in Joshua 24:19. We are _____ _____ to serve God because He is _____ and _____.
3. The _____ of our hearts prevents us from being able to love Him as He deserves and demands.

6. The Solution: Jesus Christ

1. In Jesus, we are given credit for wholehearted devotion, even though we can’t do it ourselves.
2. In Jesus, we are given new life and new hearts, hearts that are willing and eager to obey God.
3. In Jesus, we have a leader who will never die, and always lives to guide His church in righteousness.
4. In Jesus, we can say “As for me and my house, we will follow the LORD!”