

A Godly Home: The Choice is Yours Joshua 24
Exciting First Church of God, Pastor Peter Smith 06-01-14

“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

-Joshua 24:15, NASB

God’s will for all of us is expressed through Joshua!

- Joshua used to live in Egypt as a slave
- He had wandered with his family for 40 years to the Promised Land
- He would live there in a permanent place
- Now Joshua challenges everyone about God’s place in their homes:
“Choose this day who you will serve...we will serve the Lord”

Joshua’s family chose God. His decision:

- Was not based on peer pressure, **but faith!**
- His choice clearly was not the popular choice in culture
- His choice changed his life and
- His choice helped change the destiny or future of a nation which would become Israel
- Likewise, our choice for a godly home can impact the lives around us.
- Who are choosing each day of your life?

1. Life is a series of choices. Obviously!

- Some are big (gods of this world) others are small (regular or decaf!)
- Choices determine our character, direction and our future / destiny
- God loves us enough to let us choose!!!!

“This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live...”

-Deut. 30:19-20a, NIV

God is for us and not against us...Pro Life and Pro Choice all at the same time!

Who will Choose for Your Family?

- Fathers, did you?
- Mothers, did you?
- Or was it your Grandmother, Grandfather, an Aunt or Uncle?
- **Somebody** has to choose...and then a heritage comes forth from that decision!
- **In my family**, I heard it was my Great Grandma (Gramp's mom) who made this choice. Tom was born in the early 1900's; his mom in the late 1800's.
- **Her faith has influenced 5 Generations!!!**

Husbands....can choose!

Moms.....can choose!

Kids.....can choose!

And then God will bring His blessings to their families

Who has chosen for *your* family? Have you?

2. Choosing the Lord is a Spiritual Declaration—A line drawn in the Sand

- Noah the only upright man before the Flood
- Abraham the father of many nations
- Moses the deliverer of God's people
- David, the greatest king in Israel
- Mary, mother of Jesus, so holy God allowed her to birth our Savior!
- Paul, who brought Christianity / Jesus to most of the world in his time

Physically & 'spiritually'

- **No wonder life can be full of challenges after accepting Jesus!**

When we accept this challenge, we begin to live our lives on Purpose, our Destiny (What God created us for)

- Not a life predetermined for you but one **desired** for you!
- only God's purposes for your life will have lasting significance

"He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe."
-Proverbs 28:26

"You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail."
-Prov. 19:21, NLT

(Just like my Great Grandma who chose Jesus...the people you and your family will meet, because of your faith in Jesus, can change the lives of many for good!

- Our circles of influence
- The places we will live (even if not far from home)
- The places we work
 - Story about FCOG: early days 1895 our church was started:
 1. 1st CoG on the coast
 2. We started churches in Baltimore, Dover, PA, Jersey and NY. How?
 3. Families moved for work and other reasons
 4. They took Jesus with them, started Bible studies, etc. Churches began...which means God's Kingdom came and people were saved from their sins!
 5. Who might your family reach some day?!

All of us choose a direction in life...have you chosen wisely?

Wisdom (for our choices) comes through our love relationship with God:

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding."
-Prov. 2:6

"The fear of (reverence for) the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*; His praise endures forever."
-Psalms 111:10, NASB

And God wants wisdom lived out in us with integrity

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom."
-James 3:13

3. What does God require from a godly home?

Joshua said to the people,

“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.” -Joshua 24:14ESV

- Dedication, **fear the LORD**
- Integrity, and **sincerity**
- Discipline **faithfulness...put away...**

- Since following Jesus have you given up your worldly lifestyle and passions?
- Are you submitting your life and choices to Jesus **daily**?
- Parents, do your kids see you choosing Jesus? Do your neighbors, co-workers and friends see you choosing Jesus?

We must make a commitment, a declaration, today:

- Kids tend to follow their parents. Where are you leading your kids: to Heaven or to Hell? To life or to death?
- Will your family live for yourselves or will you **choose** to live for others?
- Will your grandkids & great grandkids call upon Jesus? While you can't choose for them, you can point the way with your declaration today.
- Choose the Lord!