



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

### **Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth**

**Supports Session 7:** Vital Decision

**Sermon Title:** "Choose This Day" (Joshua 24:14-24)

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#### **Connection to Session 7**

Session 7 and this sermon both focus on the importance of choosing to follow God in everyday life. Because of God's faithfulness, Christians can faithfully live for Him. This sermon emphasizes the importance of public confession and accountability in following God.

#### **Introduction/Opening**

Near the end of his life, Joshua gathered Israel at Shechem to renew their covenant with the Lord. Having recalled God's saving acts (Josh. 24:1-13), Joshua called the people to respond. This passage confronts every generation with the necessity of choosing faithful allegiance to the one true God.

#### **Outline**

- 1. God calls for reverent and exclusive worship** (v. 14)
  - a.** "Therefore, fear the LORD and worship him in sincerity and truth" (v. 14). Joshua shared all that the Lord had done for the people in verses 1-13, and then he called the people away from false gods and idols to worship the one true God who has always been faithful to them. The people were to worship Him from the depths of their hearts. God was calling them to repentance.
  - b.** God is holy and deserves all praise and glory. He does not share His glory. The people of God could not serve both idols and God; rather, they must worship the one true God. And today, God still gives the same calling. Christians must turn away from things that can become false gods or idols in their lives and worship the Lord God who has always been faithful to them.
- 2. God demands a deliberate choice of allegiance** (vv. 15-18)
  - a.** Faith involves intentional commitment and not inherited religion. Joshua makes it clear that the people must make a choice of who they will serve. They must either serve the false gods or the God who has been faithful to them. Like today, people must choose who to serve. People are not followers of God simply because their

parents were Christians or because they go to church and do nice things. Everyone must come to their own decision and daily choose to follow God (Matt. 16:24).

- b. As a good leader, Joshua declared his own commitment. Leaders take action steps and invite others to follow them. Joshua made the decision that his family would follow God, and he invited others to make the same decision. Faith in God is personal, but not private. Anyone should be able to see that you serve God.

### 3. **God exposes the serious cost of covenant faithfulness** (vv. 19-20)

- a. Joshua warned of God's holiness and jealousy. God alone deserves our undivided devotion, and He graciously calls us to keep Him at the center of our hearts (Deut. 6:4-5).
- b. Covenant violation brings real consequences. The people were warned about the seriousness of not following God. God did not take this covenant lightly. Even when people experience grace and forgiveness from God, there are still real-life consequences to our sin and lack of faith. God can forgive someone who commits murder, but they still have to suffer the legal consequences. Grace does not eliminate accountability.

### 4. **God invites a public commitment** (vv. 21-24)

- a. Faith is strengthened through confession and accountability. The people of God confessed that they would follow only the true, living God. Regular confession of sin before God and a trusted person is important to keep idols and sin out of our lives. Confessing to others also brings the opportunity for accountability. When people know what we are struggling with, they are able to help us walk faithfully with God.
- b. God desires a response from the heart, not empty words. When faith is living and active, Christians experience God in everyday life. Instead of repeating stories or events from long ago or from other people, they have fresh stories of God's faithfulness.

## **Conclusion**

Joshua 24:14-24 confronts every believer with a decisive question: Who will you serve? True faith demands exclusive worship, intentional choice, and lifelong commitment. The covenant God invites us into is not casual—it is holy, costly, and deeply rewarding. God is always faithful (Josh. 24:1-13), and we can rest in that promise and give Him the worship He deserves.

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