

## THE POWER OF CHOICE

## PRECEPT

## JOSHUA 24:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Joshua assembled all the Israelite tribes at Shechem. He summoned Israel's elders, rulers, judges, and leaders, and they appeared before God. <sup>2</sup> Joshua told all the people, "This is what the Lord God of Israel has said: 'In the distant past your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates River, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. They worshiped other gods,' <sup>3</sup> but I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates and brought him into the entire land of Canaan.

## JOSHUA 24:15

<sup>15</sup> 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.

## PROMISE

Harvard Business Review says, "The average adult makes 33,000 to 35,000 total decisions each day, including what we will eat, what we will wear, what we will say, and how we'll say it." At any moment we have hundreds of decisions making options, some significant and some seemingly insignificant. God has given us the power of choice, and He respects the choices we make at every point of our lives. A lot of us chooses to worship the gods of this world than choosing to serve the one true God, just like the ancestors of Israelites in the book of Joshua (Joshua 24:2). The top ten gods of this world are the following:

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|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Self      | 6. Family     |
| 2. Money     | 7. Substances |
| 3. Sex       | 8. Education  |
| 4. Science   | 9. Beauty     |
| 5. Materials | 10. Comfort   |

Joshua urges the Israelites in Joshua 24:15, "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." Earlier, we listed the ten most common false gods in our lives. If we do not pay attention, we will go back to the patterns of our ancestors and worship other gods. Revelation 3:16 reminds us, "So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth." In Joshua 15, Joshua is making a declaration about what matters most to him and his household. He said in the verse, "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He is stating clearly and without any doubt who he will serve. It didn't matter to him what any other Israelite and their families decided to do and he was establishing what was right for his house.

Derek Prince, an internationally renowned Bible teacher and author of over 100 books said, "I think that if there is one thing that is hard for God to accept, it is half-hearted praise." Every person is faced with the option of choosing the one true God or serving other gods. Every person that knows the true God of the Bible needs to make an intentional decision as for who he is going to follow and serve. Even those who have at one point in life surrendered their lives to God can find themselves walking backward toward the false gods they previously served. The starting point to apply Joshua 24:15 to our lives begins with making an intentional choice to choose God over any and every other option, for true commitment will not happen by accident or coincidence. Let us choose to commit our lives to Him and obey Him fully at all costs, no matter what the sacrifices it may entail.

## PRACTICE

**1. Joshua's Example.** Just like Joshua, have you ever dedicated your life fully to God? Have you given your best for God and His glory?

**2. Whom You Will Serve.** Who is God's competition in your heart today? Have you chosen whom you will serve for the rest of your life?

## PRAYER

## I. Church

- May each of us desire to seek God and extend His love to our family and communities.

## II. North Life Groups

- Pray for the Imperial couple as they lead the North groups.

## III. East Life Groups

- Pray for the Domingo couple as they lead the East groups.

## IV. West Life Groups

- Pray for the Oliveros couple as they lead the West groups.

## V. South Life Groups

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

## VI. Downtown Life Groups

- Pray for the Gamboa couple as they lead the Downtown groups.

## VII. Circles

- Pray for Manalo couple as they continue to lead our singles and youth to God & His Word.