

3-19-2017
DEDICATING YOUR HOUSE TO THE LORD
JOSHUA EXAMPLE OF DEDICATION

TEXT

Joshua 24:13 And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

Joshua 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

In the Bible there is a custom of people dedicating their house to the Lord when they build a new house. I remember when we first moved into our house all kind of things were going wrong. It may sound silly to you, but my wife and I had to go around our house and pray and dedicate the house to the Lord. It just did not seem that God's blessing was on our house till we did that.

I had a Filipino friend that actually asked me to come to his house dedication and preach a message to dedicate his house to the Lord. He invited a lot of people from his church to his house dedication and we all prayed, and I preached and then he had a big meal. I remember he had lots of fish. Some of them look like piranhas with big teeth and all. They cooked the fish whole. Then he said brother Bissol we have a special treat. They brought out a whole pig mouth eyeballs and all.. The skin was still on the pig. This was their house dedication.

Consider tonight that dedicating your house for the Lord has a long tradition in many cultures and especially in the Bible.

Just yesterday in my Bible reading I read this verse and thought about preaching on it this Sunday morning but instead am preaching on the text this evening.

Our text is taken from Joshua 24:15

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Now in this text when Joshua makes mention of his house being dedicated to the Lord, he is not talking about his physical house but he himself and his family. This is a greater house than a building made by hands.

Really, the greatest dedication that is needed is personal dedication.
And Joshua 24:15 really is talking about personal dedication

If you are dedicated to God, then all that you have will be dedicated to God. That includes your physical house.

Joshua is a great example to us all of a man who dedicated his house-(hold) to the Lord.

Here is the great statement he made at the end of his life:

Joshua 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

***JOSHUA WAS AN EXAMPLE OF DEDICATION.
Joshua made this bold statement:
AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.***

This morning we had Children's Sunday. We do these little special things for the kids because we would hope they will dedicate themselves to the Lord at an early age. We hope they will someday, on their own volition, choose to dedicate themselves to serve the Lord. However, until they get of that age a parent can make that decision for them!

***I. JOSHUA'S DEDICATION TO THE LORD WAS HIS A PERSONAL CHOICE.
JOSHUA SAID THAT BEING DEDICATED TO GOD MUST START WITH A
PERSONAL CHOICE.***

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE.

AS FOR ME. This is something we must choose.
Whosoever shall call.
Whosoever will come.

AS FOR ME, I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHO I WANT TO CHOOSE.

This was a decision Joshua made, to dedicate himself to the Lord.
No one else made that decision for him.

- 1. CAN YOU REMEMBER BACK TO THE DAY WHEN YOU MADE THIS CHOICE?***
- 2. DO YOU REMEMBER A TIME AND PLACE WHEN YOU CAME TO THE LORD?***

As for me, there was a turning point in my life.

October 1974, I remember the time, the place, the occasion.
Paul's turning point was on the road to Damascus.

Now for some people, the turn to the Lord, when they get saved,
and they fully turn.

Others get saved, but then there is another turning point.

3. IS THERE A TIME WHEN YOU BECOME WHOLLY DEDICATED TO THE LORD? TO SERVE HIM.

THERE IS A TIME AND PLACE WHEN THIS TAKES PLACE.

I Remember under my Pastor, Pastor Don McAll, in the early 1970's, he gave an invitation for people who wanted to wholly dedicate themselves to the Lord to stand at the end of the service. I and one other man in the church stood that day. I meant it back then and it was not long after that that the Lord directed me to Bible college.

As for me, Joshua decided he will serve the Lord.
ME ME ME.

It is good to accept the challenge to make it publicly known that you are choosing to serve the Lord.

HAVE YOU MADE THE CHOICE OF PERSONAL DEDICATION?

CHOOSE THIS DAY, WHO YOU WILL SERVE.
THIS IS THE DAY OF DECISION.
THIS IS THE DAY OF CHOICE.

Throughout the Bible there are many, many verses that tell us that we need to personally choose to serve the Lord.

This is a personal decision you need to make.

Salvation and dedication. Sometimes they happen at the same time and for other people they take place at two different times. Or maybe we could say the second time reinforces the first. It all depends how you look at it theologically. I often say it matters not how it takes place in time the important thing is that it takes place in your life. HAVE YOU MADE A CHOICE TO TOTALLY DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD?

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This is the difference between Biblical Christianity and other main line denominational churches.

We stress the importance of choosing for yourself.
There comes a time when you have to decide.

Baptism comes after conversion.
Church membership comes after conversion & baptism.
Total dedication to the Lord often comes even after these two things.

II. JOSHUA'S DEDICATION TO THE LORD WAS FOR HIS WHOLE HOUSE. A HOUSE IS DEDICATED BY PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO TAKE AUTHORITY OVER THEIR HOUSE. THEY ARE THE BOSS!

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua spoke not only for himself.
He spoke for everyone else under his roof.

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE. Those who had influence over.

We need to take control of our bodies and keep them under subjection.

Rule our lives.
We need to control our lives.

If only we would see our children and grandchildren dedicate themselves to the Lord. We need to make certain choices for them while they are under our roof.

***Acts 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
Acts 16:32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.
Acts 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.
Acts 16:34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.***

We are living in a day where leadership does not come from the top.

It is the responsibility of a man that he takes the leadership of his home.

The way it should be.

Now it is nice when after you as the man of the house make this choice for your family that they also make the choice. However sometimes like the story of the prodigal son, when children leave your house they choose not to serve the Lord. That is their choice. You can only make the choice for them while they dwell in your house. It breaks a parents heart when their children go their own ways and don't serve the Lord, but it happens.

We read a sad commentary in the Bible.

Judges 2:7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

Judges 2:8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

Judges 2:9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash.

Judges 2:10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

Judges 2:11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

Judges 2:12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.

Judges 2:13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

Judges 2:14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

HOW SAD IT IS THAT OFTEN THE CHILDREN DO NOT FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THEIR FATHERS.

There needs to be a resolve to continue to serve the Lord into the next generation and the next but that resolve needs to be personal. So often the children do not choose to serve the Lord and that is sad.

Let me share some principles that hopefully would add longevity to this decision.

1. THE MAN SHOULD BE THE LEADER OF THE HOME SPIRITUALLY.

Dad stays home from church why would we expect the kids to kids to get saved?

When Dad lacks commitment, the rest of the family will.

2. Throughout Scripture this is the principle.

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Psalms 78:3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

Psalms 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Psalms 78:5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

Psalms 78:6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

Psalms 78:7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

3. This is the pattern that should be followed.

Spirit should rule your life, not the flesh.

The fathers should rule the home, not the wife or children..

Leadership should come from the top not from the bottom.

It is an uphill battle in this process. Does our body want to obey the spirit? Is there not a conflict?

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

4. In our nation today we have everything backwards.

There is a dearth of male leadership in our nation today, and male leadership is under attack. Rebellion is taking place all over America and men are being stripped of their authority over their own households. This is the judgment of God on our society for our rebellion. The Hippie movement of the 60's was the great destroyer of male headship.

We need to restore this Biblical principle back into our homes.

***III. JOSHUA'S DEDICATION TO THE LORD WAS TO SERVE HIM.
A HOUSE IS DEDICATED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE A CAUSE.
JOSHUA LIVED TO SERVE THE LORD.***

NO GREATER CAUSE.

Some people never use their houses to serve the Lord.
Never host a Bible study.
Never invite missionaries over.
Never utilize their houses for God.

He had a purpose in life. Not just to live.
Not just to enjoy the pleasures of sin.
Not just to be famous.
Not just to live the good life, to be prosperous and make money.

We are seeing many many rock and roll icons dying. Men who sang the songs of rebellion. Men who were famous. What good did their fame do them? They dedicated themselves to something that will not last.

By the grace of God I left that world and dedicated myself to serve the Lord. Now, as I enter what I have entitled in many of my messages the winter season of my life, I thank God I did dedicate these years to serve the Lord. When I see Him face to face what little service I rendered to Him will be worth it all!

What is your purpose in life?
Is it not to serve the Lord?

Joshua 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Are you available to serve Him?
Are you living for Him?

Have you made the choice to serve Him?
Have you dedicated your body as a living sacrifice?

What is the end purpose of dedicating yourself to the Lord? Is it not to be profitable and fruitful for His service?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Conclusion:

- I. IS THERE A TIME WHEN YOU CHOSE TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO GOD?
Choose ye this day.***
- II. ARE YOU EXTENDING THAT CHOICE TO THOSE WHO ARE UNDER
YOUR AUTHORITY?***
- III. IS YOUR DEDICATION LEADING TO SERVICE FOR THE LORD?***

THIS IS THE BOTTOM LINE OF IT ALL.
AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.
HOW ABOUT YOU?

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE PART II

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua said, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

Now today:

Joshua might have said, I can't speak for Hillary but I would like to serve the Lord.

Today Joshua might have said, Let me talk to Amy and see if she wants to serve the lord.

Today Joshua would say, I want to serve the Lord but my wife would get mad.

Today Joshua might say, I will serve the Lord but my wife is Catholic and she won't go alone with me.

Today Joshua might say, My wife she serves the Lord, but church is just for women and children.

Today Joshua might say, As for me and my house, Sunday is is our only day off and we use it as a family day, and we like to sleep in late.

Now for thousands of years, godliness was a man's thing.
But somewhere in the past things changed.

I think it changed when women started taking more of the leadership in the church.

There has been a spiritual decline of male leadership in the church.

Now the reason this has happened is because of a neglect.

When men cease to exercise their responsibility they lose their effectiveness in the that area.

If you stopped using your feet you would not walk very well.
If you stop exercising your arms, your arms would get weak.
If you stop exercising an area of your spiritual life, you will loose the ability to use it.

The problem we have faced is that in society we have seen a neglect in an area and we want to fix it.

We see people neglecting their children and we want to help.

Yet the way we should help is teach the families to properly train their children. Instead we have, from generation to generation, more and more parents pawning off their responsibilities to others.

Public School Movement: came because of a fear that a certain amount of children in Boston were not attending school and were illiterate.

Soon the public school movement took the responsibility of teaching away from the parents and was given over to the state.

The more society removes the responsibility from the parents, the easier it is for the parents to neglect their responsibilities.

Until you have people like Hillary Clinton advocating that it is the responsibility of society in general to train children and not the parents. "IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD."

Now the Sunday School movement also came into existence because of a concern of good people as they saw the neglect of working moms and dads in teaching their children both academic and spiritual truth.

A noble endeavor but again, there was a neglect in exercising parental responsibility.

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE PART II CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

I. In the day that we live God is in business of the salvation of souls.

Note: By its very word, salvaging souls insinuates that the souls that we salvage are scared and battered and they are not what they should be.

We buy pianos that need work and refurbish them.
In the church we are refurbishing lives.

Sin is what scares and destroys peoples lives.
Jesus came to take away our sins.

God has greatly used Sunday Schools, Youth Ministries, Awana's and all kind of programs to save souls. However, the ideal way of harvesting souls is get the man of the house saved and then have him get his home in order to reach and see his whole house come to Christ.

Salvaging pianos, we will put the same amount of work and get a better return if we focus in on certain pianos.

THE LONGER I AM AT THIS SALVAGE BUSINESS THE MORE I SEE THAT THIS IS THE CASE. I rejoice over every soul that is saved and every person that comes into the Kingdom. But we should focus first on the leader of the home. Hopefully he can lead the whole house to the Lord through his own dedication.

II. IDEALLY IT IS BEST TO FOLLOW THE PATTERN GOD ESTABLISHED IN THE BIBLE.

FATHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPIRITUAL
EDUCATIONAL WELFARE OF THEIR CHILDREN.

But ideally you will get longer lasting fruit if the Fathers take the responsibility of the spiritual education of their children.

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Psalms 78:3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

Psalms 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Psalms 78:5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

Psalms 78:6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

Psalms 78:7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Deuteronomy 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Deuteronomy 6:10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

Deuteronomy 6:11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

God told Joshua to set up monuments that would provoke questions in the minds of their children.

Joshua 4:2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,

Joshua 4:3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.

Joshua 4:4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

Joshua 4:5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

Joshua 4:6 That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?

Joshua 4:7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

Joshua 4:8 And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

Joshua 4:9 And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

Joshua 4:10 For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hasted and passed over.

Exodus 13:14 And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage:

Exodus 13:15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

Exodus 13:16 And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 6:20 And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?

Deuteronomy 6:21 Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:

Deuteronomy 6:22 And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:

Deuteronomy 6:23 And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.

Deuteronomy 6:24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

Deuteronomy 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

III. WHEN A MAN ESTABLISHES THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN HIS HOME. HIS CHILDREN AND WIFE USUALLY WILL FOLLOW HIM.

I Timothy 3: gives the norm that is required of Bishops and deacons.
THE HUSBAND SHOULD RULE HIS HOUSE.

I Timothy 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

I Timothy 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

IV. WITH THIS FOUNDATION WE NOW CAN UNDERSTAND WHY JOSHUA COULD BODLY SAY: AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

He didn't have to say:

"Let me talk to Amy.. "

"Let me talk to Hillary .. "

"Let me ask Jezebel.. "

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

***V. Reason we have men lead at the Altar.
Shared concept, Jews would not hold a public service unless
there were 10 men present.***

10 was taken as a quorum.

Abraham stopped bargaining with God at the 10 level about Sodom and Gomorrah.

We have gone from a paternal society to a Maternal.
Now the next step is a Pederastic or Perverted Society.

We need to get back to the way God intended society to run.

What is scary is the HISTORY OF THE SPARTANS. They were the most vicious warriors of their day but they were mostly Homosexuals. They literally lost desire for woman and therefore their population kept dwindling.

They were Homosexuals pedophiles and were vicious and highly effective warriors.

JUST BECAUSE A PERSON IS A HOMOSEXUAL DOES NOT MEAN HE WILL NOT EXCEL IN SOCIETY.

We have ceased to go after the biblical pattern in pursuit of that which works and brings immediate results.

Hybrid fruit looks good and tastes good but does not produce good offspring.

SO IT IS WITH THE MEGA CHURCHES OF OUR DAY.
SO IT IS WITH CATERING TO THE UNGODLY CULTURE OF OUR DAY.
THE FEMINISTS AND THE HOMOSEXUALS.

TODAY IF YOU ARE GOING TO SAY WITH JOSHUA: YES AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A FIGHT ON YOUR HAND SPIRITUALLY IN THIS SOCIETY THAT REBELS AGAINST MALE LEADERSHIP!
BUT IT IS STILL THE BIBLICAL PATTERN THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW!