

October 5, 2021

**Joshua 24:14-15** *“Now fear the LORD and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”* (NIV)

In the old farmhouse where we lived with my grandparents, there was a plaque on the wall with this scripture on it. It was a statement of faith for my grandpa, who loved the Lord. I remember learning this verse in Sunday school as well. It wasn't until we learned the story of this verse that it began to make sense to me. Joshua is standing before the nation of Israel, and proclaiming this truth; you have a choice. You can serve whomever you choose. You can turn your backs on the LORD Who brought us out of slavery; Who fed us daily in the wilderness; Who brought down enemy after enemy; Who provided water in the desert; Who led us with a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud during the day. Or, you can follow the meaningless idols of the pagan nations He have conquered. Then Joshua makes a statement for his family. Now this doesn't necessarily mean that every person in his family would always follow the LORD completely, but it does mean that as far as it was in his power, he would lead them to follow the LORD, and Him only.

We need fathers like this in our churches today. Men who will stand up and say that my family is going to serve the LORD! Too often, men have not led their families to follow the LORD wholeheartedly. Instead, they have shifted the responsibility to the wife, the pastor, the children's minister, or someone else. And we, as men, will be held accountable for this. No wonder there is a 'lost generation' looking for meaning in a world that has lost its bearings. I'm encouraging every man who might be reading this word today; take a stand for what is right. It is not easy. It is not popular. It is not even encouraged in most circles of thought. But, it is what the scripture implores us to do.

**Dear LORD, I pray for an army of men who will stand up and say that You are LORD and that we and our families will serve You and You only. Draw us back to You. Help us to set the example for our children and our children's children. In Jesus Name, Amen**