



Wherever You Go

Joshua 24

January 31, 2021

"Choose for yourselves who you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

This was one of the verses we studied when I was a kid. At Vacation Bible School, we made a plaster-of-paris art project based on this verse. But it's a verse that means more today than ever.

Last year—2020—tested the resolve of faith to follow God rather than the alternatives in our culture. The election rhetoric led to only one conclusion: No person who voted could feel confident in their choice because the other side made a conclusive argument why there was only one choice for God's people. So what were our choices? One man or the other.

God warned the people of Israel about putting your faith in men. In 1 Samuel 8:7, God said this:

God answered Samuel, "Go ahead and do what they're asking. They are not rejecting you. They've rejected me as their King. From the day I brought them out of Egypt until this very day they've been behaving like this, leaving me for other gods. And now they're doing it to you. So let them have their own way. But warn them of what they're in for. Tell them the way kings operate, just what they're likely to get from a king." (The Message)

When will we ever learn? Joshua was leading the people forward. Notice, Joshua didn't say, "Follow me and I will show you the way!" He didn't say, "You have to choose the kings of this land or me as your leader." No, he said it correctly: You have to choose the leaders people put forward or the only true leader you can trust—God.

Moving from fear to faith means picking your path forward. Choose whom you will serve. Choose whom you will have faith in. Choose whom you will push on others. Choose whom you will claim has the actual answers. Choose God!

Sermon Notes:

In order to move _____, you must decide what _____ looks like.

How you move forward in faith depends on _____ in _____.

Choosing faith in _____ of any kind is a _____ of God. We need to _____ this thought.

God _____, _____ and _____. However, it's our choice _____ God _____ relative to our life.

Personal Reflections:

1. In executive coaching, one of the questions asked of clients is this: Where do you want to be in ten years, five years, and one year from now? It's an important question to ask, "Where are you going?" If you were to answer this question, what would you say. Finish these statements:

- In ten years I want to _____
- In five years I want to _____
- In one year I want to _____

2. What role do you want God to play in your life as you move forward from fear into greater faith?

3. Think about the times in your life when God has felt very near to you. What were you doing? Where were you in life? What opportunities can you pursue in order to have God's presence to be felt in a greater way? (i.e. you may want to explore highlight events like retreats, conferences, habits, etc.)

Personal Readings: Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 1:8; Psalm 139; Joshua 24