

SHOWDOWN AT SUNDOWN!

Joshua 24:13-16

Introduction:

Joshua, Moses's successor, stood before the children of Israel and told them there was an important decision to make. He drew a line as it were in front of Israel's eyes. He said that they must choose today which side of the line they were going to be on and that it was time for a showdown for God. That line didn't just run in front of men but runs across all eternity with God. This line Joshua drew challenged folks to a decision which affected them, their families, Israel, the future church, heaven, hell, and the eternal souls of men, women, and children through all eternity. There is going to be a showdown at sundown because everyone of us is going to have to give an account to God. Our future is determined by what we do with Jesus in this life. There is a dash between our birth and death, and the legacy we leave behind is filled in daily within that dash.

The setting of our scripture passage is that Joshua has led the children of Israel into the promised land after 40 years of wilderness wandering. Remember that all those who were 20 and above died in the wilderness due to their rebellion and grumbling against God except for Joshua and Caleb. Since the younger generation has now entered the promised land, Joshua gave them exhortations of Godly direction so that their fate would not be the same fate of their ancestors. We too must learn both from the good and the bad of our ancestors and weigh it against the wholistic teachings of God's Word.

I. (v. 14ab) WE ARE TO FEAR THE LORD & SERVE HIM IN SINCERITY & TRUTH.

1. II Timothy 4:3-5 – ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but, after their own lusts, shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But you watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry.***
 - A. Walking with God is often more caught than taught.
 - B. Our children will pay far greater attention to our walk than our talk.
2. Mark 13:22 – ***For false christs and false prophets shall rise and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce if it were possible, even the elect.***
3. We're living in a time when it is unpopular to serve God.
4. Proverbs 9:10 – ***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.***

5. II Corinthians 5:10-11a – ***For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it is good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror (fear) of the Lord, we persuade men.***

[Fear the Lord and Serve Him in sincerity and truth, next:]

II. (v. 14c) WE ARE TO PUT AWAY THE GODS OF THIS WORLD.

1. Exodus 20:3 – ***Thou shalt have no other gods before you.***
2. The god of selfishness – ***You are not your own, for you are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's*** – I Corinthians 6:19d-20.
 - A. Are you only looking out for old number one?
 - B. We may say that we have our own rights, but the scripture states in Psalm 40:8, ***I delight to do Your will, O my God; yes, Your law is within my heart.***
 - C. How long has it been since you altered your plans for Christ's plans?
3. The god of materialism – ***A man's life does not consist in the abundance of things*** – Luke 12:15.

[We've looked at the Fear of the Lord and serve Him and to put away the gods of this world, and now . . .]

III. (v. 15) WE ARE TO CHOOSE TODAY WHO WE WILL SERVE.

1. Luke 9:23 – ***If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.***
2. Before our feet hit the floor each morning, we should die to self and make ourselves available to God.
3. The end of our lives will be determined by the daily choices we make.

IV. (v. 15) WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD BY HOUSEHOLDS.

1. Genesis 3:9 – Eve sinned first, but God called Adam into accountability.
2. Exodus 12:3 – God ordered Israel to gather under the redemptive blood on the doorposts by households.
3. Ephesians 5:23 – ***For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.***
4. When Zacchaeus and the Philippian Jailer were saved (Luke 19:9; Acts 16:34, respectively), so did their household.
5. Joshua was telling each household to make their choice of whom they will serve, but he stated he and his household will be serving the Lord.

Conclusion:

When the sundown of this life comes, the showdown will take place and only what you've done with Christ and for Christ will count for all eternity. As Jesus hung on the cross, dying for our sins, He was drawing a line across all eternity. Have you chosen Jesus's side? "What will you do with Jesus – neutral you cannot be. Someday your heart will be asking, what will He do with me?" In verse 16 of our text, the people answered Joshua and said, ***God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other Gods.*** Will you make that same commitment?