

Joshua – Lesson 45: Stay On The Path Of Success - Recommit Joshua 24

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 44 (Remember)

1. According to Acts 13:22, how is David the *son* of Jesse described?
Answer: God notes – ‘a man after mine own heart’.
2. According to Acts 4:13, how was the behavior of Peter viewed?
Answer: Bold.
3. According to Joshua 23:2, who did Joshua address in his call to remembrance?
Answer: All Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers.
4. According to 2 Timothy 4:8, how are those who love the Lord’s ‘appearing’ rewarded?
Answer: A crown of righteousness.
5. Complete the following scripture:

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

True / False

True The Christ was promised to be of the seed of David. (Acts 13:23)

True Peter addressed all the rulers of Jerusalem with the gospel. (Acts 4:8)

True The children of Israel witnessed the promises of God fulfilled. – God first. (JOS 23:14)

False All of God’s promises are for reward. (JOS 23:15)

Lesson 45: Stay On The Path Of Success (Recommit)

"Genius is the ability to renew one’s emotions in daily experience." — Paul Cezanne (French artist 1839-1906)

As the newness of this world fades, so does the wonder, as ‘mysteries’ are revealed (the impact of the ‘first-time’ experience diminishes over repeated exposure):

- This is not my first rodeo – Confidence due to experience (no sense of appreciation for the risk)
- Same-old, same-old – No ‘thrill’, simply a repeat of the past

‘Anticipation’ was the advertising campaign for a brand of ketchup – Instilling a sense of revitalizing the experience each time you applied the condiment to an otherwise bland meal.

The believer cannot live today by a commitment established in the past – One made 5, 10, 20 or more years ago is not sufficient because we change (unlike God – Malachi 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not), and the things that motivate us change – our abilities and talents change, our relationship with God often changes.

God understands the need to revitalize the children of Israel in recommitment to God, and uses Joshua in his farewell address to spark a sense of renewal in faith as they were reminded of the path they followed.

Joshua 24:1 - Joshua assembles all Israel

And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

- Shechem is an important place to rededicate the hearts of the children of Israel:

Genesis 12:6-7 – The beginning of the promise

(6) And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land

(7) And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him

- o Now, generations later, the children of Israel stand where God promised they would dwell.

Joshua 24:2 - Before Abraham, and the selection of Israel as God's people

And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

- The 'other side of the flood' is the point of reference in our time for the LORD to distinguish a significant change in God's relationship with man:

Genesis 8:21 – The LORD establishes a new boundary

(21) And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done

- o Although within the LORD's power and authority, He notes this action will not be repeated.

In Joshua 24:3-13, the past blessings of God on the children of Israel from the time of God choosing Abraham, to the moment of their present gathering (to the fulfilling of the promise).

Joshua 24:14 – That was then, this is now

(1) 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.

- The children of Israel are on the 'other side of the flood': A time of renewed hope and opportunity. God made a vow to this dispensation, as the children of Israel receive special guidance from God:
 - o God's law (EX 20) – God establishes the moral standard for His people
 - What is acceptable to the standard of God
 - What is to be done if a standard is not met

- The believer today is on the 'other side of Christ', as Jesus fulfilled His earthly ministry and ushered in God's dispensation of grace:

Romans 4:24-25 – All because of Jesus

(24) But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

(25) Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

- The resurrection of Christ is the assurance to the believer the gift of God is true

- The believer's new relationship with God is much more than intellectual acknowledgement:

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Not just a new point in time

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- The believer is actually transformed into a being of both this world and of the Spirit of God

As with the children of Israel, the believer is brought to a point of transition – Different circumstances and conditions, requiring a renewed commitment.

Joshua 24:15 – Decision time

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 reminds 'all' – You must reevaluate your position and chose your future
 - This generation had fought with the Lord at their side in the conquest of the promised land
 - All had demonstrated faith and commitment, as each kingdom was taken
 - All are subject to complacency and / or pride – To put God aside in this new life (we are the same people that were on the 'other side of the flood', and subject to the same weaknesses)

John 3:5 – New, and yet old

Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

- Being born again, brings the Spirit of God into the believer (you are now His)
- Being born again does not eliminate the flesh – The weaknesses from the 'other side of the flood' still exist, and require constant effort to seek alignment with God

1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Matthew 26:41 **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak**

- Joshua concludes with his statement of commitment – To continue to serve the LORD
 - Understanding that commitment must be continually refocused, Joshua reaffirms his faith to all

Matthew 6:33 **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

The believer, just like the children of Israel, must periodically realign, recommit, rededicate themselves to God, as we change in both heart (what becomes important to us) and mind (how we understand / interpret the things of this world)

When should the believer 'recommit'? Every time they think they do not need to!

Joshua – 45: Stay On The Path Of Success - Recommit

Study Questions

1. According to Joshua 24:1, where did the children of Israel gather for Joshua's farewell?

2. According to Genesis 12:7, what else happened at this site?

3. According to Joshua 24:2, what event marks a change in the relationship between God and man?

4. According to John 3:5, what must you be to enter into the Kingdom of God?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 26:41 Watch and _____, that ye enter not into _____:
the _____ indeed *is* willing, but the _____ *is* weak.

True / False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | Becoming a believer is literally becoming a new creature. |
| T | F | The believer is immune to worldly temptation. |
| T | F | Pride is of the world. |
| T | F | I need to recommit to God. |