

Deliverer Needed Series

“As for Me and My House”

Joshua 24:14-15

Introduction

- Great men are remembered by their great quotes
 - **Picture of Patrick Henry (with the quote on top of picture or however you think looks good) - “Give me liberty or give me death” – Patrick Henry** in the American revolution
 - **Picture of Franklin D Roosevelt with quote – “We have nothing to fear, but fear itself” – FDR**
- **Picture of John F Kennedy with quote - “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country” – John F Kennedy**
 - **Picture of George W Bush - “What we need is a good strategy” (the word is misspelled on purpose) – George W Bush** – the democrats like that one – okay well...

Picture of Barak Obama – “If you are happy with your insurance, you can keep it.” – Barak Obama

- I am an equal opportunity offender

The point is, Great historical men are remembered by their great historical quotes

- And Joshua is no exception, as he gathers the people of Israel together before his death, and he gives them one last sermon
 - We will look at this sermon in its entirety on Wednesday Night
 - You really need to be here – because Joshua is going to show them how to continue in victory

The major battles have been won, but Joshua is going to encourage them in how to continue in that victory

- and his advice is way different than you would expect coming from a military commander
 - but it comes from 100 years of walking with God
 - great stuff this Wednesday Night
- But this morning I want to focus on one thing that Joshua says in this sermon that is probably the most famous thing Joshua ever said

He says, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- this quote is found all over Christian book stores, we hang it in our homes – no doubt you have heard it before
 - you may not have known where it came from
 - but you have heard this quote
- well this morning I want to unpack what Joshua was trying to communicate to the hearts of the children of Israel, and the Lord to us
 - I see three aspects to this great quote by the Israeli leader Joshua, if you are taking notes...

Joshua’s Most Famous Quote

#1 – It is a Bold Declaration

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

- Joshua here makes a bold declaration – He is saying, this is the way it is going to be in my house
 - Joshua by this time in his life was a strong leader
 - And as a strong leader he declares this is the way it is going to be – we are going to serve God as a family
- Can I say Dad, Mom, Grandpa, Grandma – this is what your family desperately needs

- Someone to be strong

We live in a world that wants to wimpify everyone

- nobody can make a decision, because we are paralyzed by fear of how its going to be received
 - but we need men and we need women who can speak boldly and say – as for me and my house we are going to serve the Lord

I know the temptation to want to first and foremost be your kid's friend

- I love my children and I want them to like me
 - But I also realize they will have many friends in their lives, some will be great and some will not be great
 - They will have many friends
- But they only have one Father, they only have one Mother
 - We love them more than life itself
 - But because we love them we have to boldly declare – we will serve the Lord!

There may be day where we have to say, I know everyone else is putting up those posters, I know everybody else watches that and listens to that

- but because I love you
 - please hear me – this is not biblical exhortation to be a jerky father
 - this is not a pastor push to be an uptight mom
- But in love, and with the heart of Jesus, you have to be able to say
 - This is not the way we are doing things in our house
 - We will serve the Lord

Oh pastor Jason I can't talk that way

- I am really timid and my family intimidates me
 - That attitude just isn't in me

Don't you remember it wasn't originally in Joshua either

- God had to tell him 7 times to “be strong”

And even the people, the children of Israel, said, we will follow you, but be strong, please you whimp

- It may not be how you are naturally, but you go to the Lord, and say – help me lead my family
 - Help me boldly declare
 - As for me and my house we will serve the Lord
- The children of Israel needed that
 - and though your kids may never say, they need it to
 - They need strong men and women who will say as for me and my house
 - We are going to turn that off, and we are going to turn on the things of the Lord – We are going to church

How I wish I had a Dad that would have sat me down and said son this is what is going to be the reality in your life

- and then try to explain to me why – your mind is recording these things, and it will affect you, so we are going to get into the Word and go to church and turn off these thing
 - I wish someone would have sat me down and said this is the way it's going to be, and tried to explain to me why – but even if I didn't get it, would say, well, son, this is the way it is
 - What heartaches I would have been spared – what struggles I could have avoided

Dads, your kids need you to be men

- not jerks, not pigs, but strong

Maybe you're a single mom – maybe your husband doesn't know the Lord or doesn't see this

- then you need to step up Mom

- Like Deborah in Judges, when it comes to your kids it is too important – Make a bold declaration!!!!

Joshua's Most Famous Quote

#1 – It is a Bold Declaration

#2 – It is a Sobering Realization

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

- as Joshua was uttering this famous quote I believe there was for him and there definitely should be us a sobering reality
 - that in my bold declaration – as for me and my family we will serve the Lord - the sobering reality is the declaration starts with me
- As for me....
 - I lead the way - Who am I???? What am I doing?

It is a priority in my life to seek the Lord?

- Am I praying about what I put into my mind, before my eyes and into my ears and my body?
 - I'm I taking those things to the Lord

You see it is the height of hypocrisy to tell my children – you are not going to watch that, you are not going to partake in that, if I do

- sometimes as adults we trick ourselves into thinking – oh this is adult material, so it is okay for me, because I am an adult
 - now there is some truth to that – my kids are young I know that a movie like the Hobbit would put them into my bed for the next month
 - and I love them but I don't want them in my bed for a month – nothing wrong with it – did scare me, it scared momma a little bit – that's okay
- There are things that Mommy and Daddy watch that are not for the kids, because the content is above them - But not sinful – do you see the difference?

I should not be watching things that lead to my heart being in bondage to lust just because I am an adult, I should not be filling my head with language the blasphemes the God that died for me, just because I am an adult

Sure there is content that depending on your families age, you guard your kids from but it's fine for you

- But not sin on the screen
 - Not things to promote worship of a false God
 - A false god? - yes

The people of Canaan had the false gods of Baal the god of self exaltation, and Ashtoreth the goddess of sensuality, Mammon the god of prosperity

- And If I am allowing things in my heart, before my eyes, in my ears that promote those false gods
 - That makes me begin to believe in my heart that I am god, that sex is god, that material gain is what my heart is really needing
 - If I am filling my heart with that, then I can't excuse it because I am an adult
- I need to be able to say first “as for me”
 - It starts with me
 - I should not be watching such things

Oh Pastor Jason – you are such a legalist, I do those things in private, my kids never see it, I can handle that, I am okay with that, I'm not weak like you - and I keep it from my family so they are not effected

- are you sure?, are you positive that what is done in secret wont come out openly?
 - because Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount concerning the good things we do for Him that's exactly what will happen – Jesus said...

“your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” – Matthew 6:4

- the Father sees what happens in secret

- and more than that – who we are in secret seems to transfer to those we are around and over

I have always been challenged as a Father to understand that David had mighty men, men who followed him, men who were under his spiritual leadership

- and the Bible lists these guys and their accomplishments in II Samuel 21
 - and I find it so interesting that each of these guys did great things, and it was said of most of them that they were giant killers
 - in their battles, in the wars fought with the Philistines, David's mighty men consistently took down these 8 foot tall Shaquille O Neil types
 - they took down giants
- why? – well I suggest to you because David did – David was the original, he was the OG, the Original Giant killer – OG, Original Giant – anyways, listen...

Here is the deal though – David killed Goliath when he was 15, 16 years old

- that was years before these mighty men were around
 - they did not see David kill the giant
 - but they killed giants because that was who David was – it transferred
- if you don't believe it consider Saul, Israel's first king, the Bible talks about his mighty men as well
 - they lived in the same time frame, they fought the same people groups as David's mighty men, but it never says in the Word, that one of Saul's men ever killed a giant
 - why? – because Saul wasn't a giant killer
- He was afraid of Goliath, so much so he let a 15 year old go fight for him, pretty sad
 - But that was who Saul was, and that was who his men became
 - Walking with God is so often caught not taught

You can teach, teach and teach your kids to walk with Jesus and you should

- but what's demonstrating in your life, what are you doing in the secret place?
 - Because, listen, it will come out in your family for good or for evil

I heard a story about a man who loved to drink, he would not get drunk, but having a beer or glass of wine with dinner was just the way of life for him

- and one night he was looking for a particular bottle of wine and realized it was gone, so he went for a walk to the corner liquor store. It was back East and it had snowed the day before, so he put on his coat and boots and went for a nice stroll before dinner
 - what he didn't realize is his 4 year old son saw Dad leave and put on his coat and his boots and he was coming too
 - the Dad looked back to see his son following behind him and he said, what are doing as his son was jumping from one thing to another
 - and the son said – I am just following in your footsteps Dad
- And that floored the Dad because he wasn't sure he really wanted his son having the same relationship with alcohol that he did
 - Now I share that story with you not to say that is what God has for you and your family
 - I share it with you because what this man realized is true – your family will follow your lead – where are you leading them???

You can say well I don't have any kids, so this study doesn't apply to me – sure it does

- for remember David set the tone in his life at 15
 - you are setting the tone now for the family you will lead someday

And all of us need to remember, whether it's wanting to see our families grow in Jesus, or whether it's wanting to see our community be revived

- it starts with you
 - you need to decide I will walk with God, truly, genuinely

You see – we will look at this more in detail on Wednesday Night, but after Joshua makes this statement, the children of Israel say, we will follow the Lord too

- and Joshua – look at verse 19, He says, you can't serve the Lord
 - now that is a crazy thing to say
 - can you image me giving an alter call and someone comes up, I want to serve the Lord – oh you can't, I wasn't talking to you
 - it would be time to find a new pastor – that's horrible, what is Joshua doing?

What Joshua knows is they can't serve the Lord, because they are still holding onto idols in their hearts and physically in their tents if you look down to verse 23

- and on Wednesday we will look at how the idols in our hearts deceive us and get us to think we are okay, when we are not
 - important study this Wednesday Night

But sufficient for this morning is to realize you can make all the bold declarations you want

- but you still can't serve two masters
 - Jesus told us this

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.” – Matthew 6:24

If in our hearts or in our homes there are things that actively tear at our relationship with God

- whether that be a TV show that glorifies sensuality or prosperity as the ultimate aim in life, it is affecting your heart
 - you can't serve two masters – you need to deal with that
- Whether it is something you are reading or clicking on that is pulling your heart in the direction of self gratification above the Lord
 - Hear me - You can't serve two masters
 - That is why Joshua says what He does

You need to deal with those idols in your heart and in your home

- how it's really simple - you see not being able to serve two masters goes both ways
 - it is true – you can not truly serve the Lord, I'm not saying you're not saved, but you can not truly serve and walk with God while you are allowing idols to dominate your heart and home
- but the flip side of that is also wonderfully true
 - you choose to serve the Lord
 - you choose to go hard after him
 - to worship Him, to learn of Him, to love Him
 - and you know what you will find
- those bondages, those idols, those other gods, they can't stand in His presence, because you can not serve two masters – either way you look at it

Oh I don't serve anyone – oh yes you do

- the great theologian Bob Dylan in his Christians years which is a weird thing to say about anybody, but none the less, he said

Bob Dylan picture with quote over it – “You're gonna serve somebody, it might be the devil, it might be the Lord, but you're gonna serve somebody.”

You are going to serve somebody

- something is going to shape your ideals
 - something is going to shape your family, something is going to shape your destiny
- And as Joshua said, if you have a problem with that something being God, okay, don't serve Him, but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord

God is a great God, no one like Him, so worthy of our following Him whole heartedly

- so for us it is easy to make a bold declaration, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord
 - but also important enough for us, is to have a sobering reality – As for me, it starts with me
 - and I can't serve Him, not really, if my heart is serving something else – Lord put your finger on whatever that is and help me repent, so I can say truly as for me, and my house we will serve the Lord

Joshua's Most Famous Quote

#1 – It is a Bold Declaration

#2 – It is a Sobering Realization

#3 – It is a Wonderful Celebration

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

- one last thing before we go our way today, but listen up because this is huge
 - Joshua was a real person, leading real people into a real promised land
 - But remember – Joshua is also a picture of another person with the same name

Joshua in an English name, Yashewa is the Hebrew, and the Greek Equivalent is Jesus

- Jesus, Joshua, Yashua all the same name
 - And all throughout this book Joshua is a picture of Jesus
 - And we have to see how here

You see there is a tendency to hear this message this morning and be discouraged

- pastor Jason I don't lead my family – I can't say as for me and my house
 - I want them to serve the Lord
 - But I really don't – I fall so short so often

Well – the enemy of our soul will take a message like this this morning and use it to heap condemnation over your head

- you don't really serve the Lord!
 - and your family never will – so stop trying you hypocrite – oh the enemy is so good at condemnation

But I want you to see before we go our way, why this quote of Joshua is not just a bold declaration that we must make and a sobering realization that it needs to start with me, as for me, but this quote is also a wonderful celebration

- why? – because I want you see it is our Joshua, our Yashua, our Jesus declaring this to be so
 - As for me and my house – we will serve the Lord
 - It actually is very close to something Jesus said in John 17

“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” –John 17:18-19

- Jesus said I was sanctified, I was completely set apart from the world, so that they may be set apart
 - As for me (I did) and because I did, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord

The Lord does not want you condemned this morning, challenged sure, convicted maybe we need it, but not condemned

- because He would say to you and me, you are a part of my house
 - I walked in purity with the Lord
 - And that is what you will do! – Hallelujah

It reminds me in some ways of what happened to Peter

- the night before Jesus was crucified Jesus told His disciples all of you will betray me tonight

- and Peter spoke – no way – even if all these bums over here betray, I never will, I will die for you
- And most of you know how that bold declaration worked out for Peter
 - It was followed by a sobering realization – as Peter denied the Lord not once, not twice, but three times, just as Jesus had said

And Peter is devastated, no doubt far beyond conviction and challenged, he is condemned

- but after Jesus rose from the grave, He comes to Peter, seeks him out
 - and says, Peter do you love me?, not once, not twice, but three times, - do you love me?
 - and Peter says, You know I love you
- And Jesus commissions him once again and then, catch this, don't go to sleep on me, Jesus says this to Peter

“Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.” – John 21:18-19

After commissioning Peter, Jesus says when you were younger you did what you wanted, you lived your own life, but when you are old they will stretch you out, and carry you away

- and He was speaking about the way Peter would die
 - Church history records that Peter would eventually be crucified for preaching Jesus
 - And yet when they went to crucify him he requested they crucify him upside down, because he was not worthy to die in the same manner as Jesus

And though this seems cruel at first that Jesus is talking about how Peter would die, oh see it, its not cruel

- Peter is condemned – I told the Lord I would die for him and I couldn't even declare him in front of a little girl, what kind of disciple?, what kind of Christian?
 - And Jesus seeks Peter out, commissions him again
 - And basically says – Peter what you wanted to do for me, what your heart wanted to do, that you would die for me – someday you will get your chance Peter!
- I have not forsaken you – you have failed, but I will not fail you
 - Your sin will cause you pain, and troubles and bumps along the way
 - But there is no one like Jesus who is faithful even when we are faithless
 - And He has declared – As for me and my house we will serve the Lord

So as He said to Peter I think Jesus would say to us – I know you feel like you failed your family, I know you feel like you let them down and there is no hope

- but you keep following me - And I will show you what real faithfulness looks like in your life

Maybe you feel like you failed parentally

- The Lord wants you to hear, “keep going for it, your kids are going to serve the Lord”
 - I think of Bathsheba – how her heart must have broke watching her son Solomon – 1,000 wives, parties with Baboons and Peacocks (I Kings 10:22) weird stuff – what are you doing?
- She must have felt responsible
 - This is my sin – I was an adulterer and my son is a sexual pervert
- But she kept pouring into him
 - I know that because of Proverbs 31 – Solomon says, this is what my Mom told me

Yet all the prayer, all the pouring into, Bathsheba died, never seeing her son really serve the Lord

- yet when Solomon was old, he wrote Ecclesiastes, where he says, all these wives, the peacocks the baboons, they are vanity
 - but, then he ends, “Fear God and keep His commandments for this is man’s all”
 - at that moment Bathsheba’s boy became a preacher
- she never saw it then, but she knows it now
 - Dad, Mom – Grandpa - you keep pouring in, you keeping praying
 - and you realize this verse is not just a declaration, and not just a realization, but as you don’t give up, it will also be a celebration – as for me and my house we will serve the Lord because our God is faithful

Look at me, look up at me

- let’s say this together if you believe it
 - As for me and my house we will serve the Lord
 - That was sad – again - again
- And God we pray this would be reality for us