

April 28, 2019



### **Choose This Day**

Joshua 24:14-15

**14** *"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. 15* *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."*

#### **SERMON SUMMARY**

The Israelites had quickly forgot where their blessings came from and became a nation divided in their devotion. Many started worshipping the gods of their fathers and others worshiped the gods of the cultures around them. In this passage, Joshua gives a speech to the Israelites in telling them to choose who they will serve.

#### **A simple premise: The decisions we make today have consequences for tomorrow**

Throughout this sermon series, we want to think about the decisions we make and how it impacts the future. Every week, we will focus on an "I choose..." statement.

#### **A not-so-simple decision: I choose to make God the center of my life**

Joshua called on the Israelites to CHOOSE who to serve. Like the Israelites, we have to DECIDE, not drift.

- We can't drift in discipleship, commitment, or drift into God being the center. It's a decision we have to make every day.
- We must actively choose to serve (to obey, worship, honor). Tim Keller said, "You don't get to decide to worship. Everyone worships something. The only choice you get is what to worship"
  - Serve with **sincerity** and in **faithfulness**
  - To serve God is total commitment, not a contribution.
- The first choice we make is who will be the center, and from that all other decisions flow

#### **The choice requires you to remember (Joshua 24:1-13)**

The decision you make to serve God is rooted in what God has done in the past.

- God is reminding us that he is the one from whom blessings flow, that he delivers and saves. He gives us a reason to choose him
- Be faithful in serving the God who has been faithful to you

#### **The choice will make you distinct (vs 15)**

For the Israelites to serve God, it required them to be different from their neighbors. When we choose Jesus, we stand out and are distinct. Distinctiveness is evidence that God is the center of your life.

- Be distinct in how we speak to one another
- Be distinct in how we handle money
- Be distinct in our integrity

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### **The choice is collective for your family (vs 15b)**

This choice is not an individual one, it is to be declared among the family. For those not yet married, look for someone that you can together declare this decision.

- Families: prioritize the right things
  - Family schedule
  - prayer and worship
  - the great commission

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
  - Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
  - Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
  - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?**
  - Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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### **RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself**

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

### **QUESTIONS**

*Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!*

### **Getting to know you**

- Think about the activities done and decisions made this past week, what was the driving force behind it?
- What decisions have you made that ended up in negative consequences down the line? Any positive results?
- Growing up in your family, what did spiritual growth and conversations look like?

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## Into the Bible/Application

- **Read Matthew 28:18-20, The Great Commission.** The decision you make in your home today, will have consequences in your family tomorrow. The home is the most powerful and influential place to make disciples.
  - What is your family doing now, to make disciples?

*Choose to make God the center of my life*

- **Read Matthew 6:24.** We can't waver between two sides or serve two masters.
  - Where in your life have you split your devotion?
  - What do you find yourself serving or focusing as the center of your life?
- What are signs that we are drifting in our relationship with Jesus? What can we do to combat drifting?
- **Read Matthew 7:24-27.** The storms prove what you build your foundation on.
  - What have you built your foundation on?
- What does it look like to serve with sincerity and faithfulness?

*The choice requires you to remember. (vs 1-13)*

- **Read Deuteronomy 8:17-19.** God is the one whom all blessings flow. This passage warns us from forgetting what he has done.
  - How has God been faithful to you?
    - How has he provided?
    - How has he sustained or healed relationships?
    - How has he comforted you?

*The choice will make you distinct. (vs 15)*

- **Read John 15:18-19.** When we choose to follow Jesus, our lives should be distinct from others. As a result, we may face difficulties from others.
  - Have you faced backlash from others from following Jesus or from making decisions that are based on Jesus?
- If we choose make God the center...
  - What does it look like to be distinct in how we speak to one another?
  - What does it look like to be distinct how we handle money?
  - What does it look like to be distinct in our integrity?

*The choice is collective for your family. (vs 15b)*

- How can your family prioritize Jesus?
  - What does the family schedule look like?
  - How often do you pray and worship together?
  - How can you prioritize the great commission as a family?

## PRAY

- Thank God for his blessings in your life and pray that you will be reminded of what he has done for you
- Pray that we can intentionally choose Jesus to be the center in our lives and in every decision that we make
- Pray that your family can grow together and be strengthened through the choice of making Jesus the center

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *College*

**Sprummer** registration is open! Last year we sold out in a couple weeks, so don't delay. Sign up at [osuepic.com](http://osuepic.com) before May 10 for the early bird price of \$109 and a free long-sleeve shirt. On May 10, the price increases to \$139. May 24-27 at Camp Tapawingo.

### *All church*

Our first-ever **Marriage Conference** will be happening on May 3-4 at the church. Individuals, dating couples, and engaged couples are also welcome to join for teaching, discussion, games, and snacks. Childcare is also provided, but you must register **ASAP** at <http://www.grantavebc.org/marriage-conference.html>.

Friday, May 3 from 6:30-8:30pm (optional dinner at 5:30pm)

Saturday, May 4 from 9am-3pm

Cost: \$30 for couples, \$20 for individuals

If you'd like to know more about our church, what we believe, and how we function, the **Exploring Membership class** is for you. We're offering a 3-week class on May 5, 12, and 19 at 11am. If you're interested, email the office at [andrea@grantavebc.org](mailto:andrea@grantavebc.org).

We have a **part-time janitor job opening** beginning in June. If you're interested, please give a resume to Pastor Don.

A **memorial service for Phyllis Johnson** will be on Saturday, May 4 at 4pm at Grant Avenue Baptist Church. Please keep her family in your prayers.