

Choose this day

1. Joshua's final message:

2. Joshua 24:14-28. ...And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord**" ... And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord!"²² So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!"²³ "Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel."²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey (NKJV)

- Remember that God has delivered you and given you an inheritance
- You once served 'other gods' and you are once again serving 'other gods'
- There are consequences (judgement) for serving 'other gods'
- You must make a decision about who you will worship, honour and serve
- The people made a public decision to serve the True and Living God

3. A message from Moses:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20. See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, **that** you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, **that** I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; **therefore choose life, that** both you and your descendants may live;²⁰ **that** you may love the Lord your God, **that** you may obey His voice, and **that** you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and **that** you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." NKJV

....therefore choose life (so) that ... you may live...

4. A rich young ruler makes a choice:

Matthew 19:16-26. Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” ... But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”¹⁸ He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’¹⁹ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”²⁰ The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions ... “Who then can be saved?”²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” NKJV

□ Riches were his ‘god’ of choice

Anything that holds our attention, affection and passions - that draws us away from the Living God and secures our time, talent and treasure is our ‘god of choice’

5. What do you and I value?

Mark 8:34-39. When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”³⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” NKJV

□ What is ‘gaining the whole world’ for me, for you?

□ What does it mean to ‘lose our soul’?

*John 3:16-18. For God so loved the world **that** He gave His only begotten Son, **that** whoever believes in Him should not **perish** but have everlasting life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but **that** the world through Him might be saved.¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is **condemned already, because** he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

□ **What does it mean to perish?**

□ **What does it mean to be condemned already?**

• **The wages of sin is death – eternity without life, judgement, hades, damnation...**

- The wages of rebellion and disobedience against Gods ways
- The wages of cheating, lying, deceit, anger, hatred, etc
- The wages of sexual impurity and immorality, corruption, abuse, etc

He who loved us most also warned us most – and paid the ultimate price to provide deliverance from sins consequences

• **Paul warned us in his letter to the church at Rome**

• **John warned us in the book of Revelation**

*John 10:10. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come **that** they may have life, and **that** they may have it more abundantly.*

Acts 4:12. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

• **Not through religious works, effort or activity**

• **Not through heritage, education or status**

John 14:6. Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

6. A public choice and bold confession:

*Matthew 10:32-33. Therefore **whoever confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. NKJV*

Acts 2:37-41. Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted (plead with them) them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse

(corrupt) generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. NKJV.

□ What shall we do?

- Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ... etc...
- With many other words he exhorted and plead with them
- He passionately warned them – be saved from...
- 3000 gladly received his word and were publicly baptised
 - But – the majority did not respond (3000 among many, many, many thousands)

7. Choose for yourselves this day:

Deuteronomy 30:19. I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live

Joshua 24:15 ...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

- A Personal Challenge and a Personal Response
- A Bold Public Response – Believing and Baptism
- A choice to live for God in a godless society

<p><i>“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”</i></p>
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