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WORSHIP WEDNESDAY
BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

October 26, 2016

“Who are you Serving”

Joshua 24:14-26

2016 VISION

NEXT LEVEL MINISTRY!

Scripture: (Philippians 1:6 ESV) “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

2016 FOCUS

Next Level INVESTMENT

Next Level INVOLVEMENT

Next Level EXPECTATION

Next Level GENEROSITY

Next Level ACCOUNTABILITY

WE GROW PEOPLE

Because We Value OAK GROVE

We align our behavior with our beliefs to ensure we are:

Operating in Love
Amplifying Servant Leadership
Keeping the Fellowship Among Believers
Glorifying God
Reaching the Lost
Obeying the Master
Volunteering to Serve
Equipping Disciples

Our Values: We must create an atmosphere to grow people;

We Value Being Ruled by the Spirit

We will be Ethical-Practicing morality and integrity.

We will be Exceptional-Striving for excellence.

We Value Remaining true to the Scriptures

We will be Biblical-Prioritizing the Word of God.

We will be Practical-Appling biblical principles relevantly.

We will be Instructional-Teaching constantly and systematically.

We Value being ready for the Shift

We will be Motivational-Inspiring others to positive actions.

We will be Liberal-Sharing of our time, talent and treasures.

We will be Relational-Developing healthy relationships.

Who are you serving?

Joshua 24:14- 26

Minister Kimberly Sprawling
Donald L. Johnson Pastor/ Teacher

Serving means:

1. To slave for
2. To work for
3. To be a servant

There are many things we can serve in this world, none of which honor Jesus. We can serve money, other people, and addictions to various substances or activities. We can even serve an addiction to people if what they think of us is more important to us than what the Lord thinks of us.

We can also become a servant to our emotions. It is so easy for us to become overwhelmed by our feelings, and when we do, we can begin to quickly bow down to them.

Matthew 6:24 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Jesus “says we can only have one master.” We live in a materialistic society where many people serve money, people and things. They spend most of their time collecting and storing up, only to die and leave it behind. Their desire for these things such as money and what it can buy far outweighs their commitment to God and spiritual matters. Whatever occupies you or you store up, you will spend much of your time and energy thinking about.

Matthew 6: 19-21 Also tells us, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Jesus contrasted heavenly values with earthly values when He explained that our first loyalty should be to those things that don’t fade, cannot be stolen or used up, and never wear out. We should not be excited with our possessions, lest they possess us. God deserves to be our master. Either we store our treasure with God – focusing our eyes on Him and serve him alone.

As believers in Jesus Christ, Our goal should daily be to lay up treasures in Heaven. This is done by faithfully serving the Lord.

Who are you serving?

1 Samuel 7:3 “And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”

When we are serving God we belong to Him and if we are serving the devil we belong to him, there is no middle ground, we cannot claim to be serving God and our attitude is showing a different thing.

Revelation 3:14-16 God commanded John to write to the angel of the church of Laodicea, the lukewarm self-satisfied church...To the angel (divine messenger) of the church in Laodicea write: “These are the words of the Amen, the trusted *and* faithful and true Witness, the Beginning *and* Origin of God’s creation: ¹⁵ ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold (invigorating, refreshing) nor hot (healing, therapeutic); I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm (spiritually useless), and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth [rejecting you with disgust].

That brings us to our focus.....

Who are you serving?

Joshua said to the children of Israel in Joshua 24: 15 “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.”

John 12:26 “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father [honor].”

In answering this question, ask yourself who or what

1. Control Joshua 24:15 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.

The people had to decide whether they would obey God, who had proven His trustworthiness, or obey the other gods, which were hand-made idols. It's easy to slip into rebellion- going through life doing you. But time will come when you have to make a choice who or what is controlling you. The choice is yours. Will it be God, your own way or another imperfect substitute? Once we have chosen to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, we have to acknowledge that daily.

2. Commitment Joshua 24:16-18, 21 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; ¹⁷For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: ¹⁸And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God. ²¹ And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

3. Covenant Joshua 24:24-26 and the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. ²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

The covenant between Israel and God was that the people would worship and obey the Lord alone. Their purpose was to become a holy nation that would influence the rest of the world of God. The conquest of Canaan was a means to achieve this purpose, but Israel became preoccupied with the land and lost sight of the Lord.

The same can happen in our lives. God said, “we are a peculiar people.” We are a special people.” We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood.” The conquest of Christ dying on the cross was the means to achieve this purpose, but yet in still we have gotten preoccupied with the land and lost sight of the Lord as well.

So rememberWho are you serving? Jesus

It's not about being great ourselves but about making God look great.

