

STAY FAITHFUL TO GOD, SERVE THE LORD

Joshua 23-24

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Are there any “famous last words” that are meaningful to you? Whose words were they and why are they meaningful?
- Have you ever made a promise but failed to keep it? What happened? How did you feel? Were there any consequences?

As we close our study of Joshua, we benefit from the wisdom of Joshua’s final words to the Israelites. Knowing his death is near, Joshua urges the Israelites to maintain a long memory and remain faithful to the God who saved them, delivered them, fulfilled his promises to them, and brought them to rest in the Promised Land. Studying Joshua’s farewell speech gives us an opportunity to pause and consider how we live and honor God with our lives. It also encourages us to always remember our promise-keeping God and all he has done for us through the work of Jesus Christ.

Listen: [*Stay Faithful to God, Serve the Lord*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Reflect on host Scott Hoezee’s statement from segment 1, “God makes it clear that God is the one who gave them this land. Yes, they fought. They had to do stuff, of course; but it was ultimately God...so, now Joshua says: so don’t turn around and slap God in the face. You are living in the land of grace.” What does Scott mean by “don’t turn around and slap God in the face”? In what ways might we be tempted to act in ways that “slap God in the face” today?
- Reread Joshua 23:14-16. In segment 2, Scott reminds us that “The good news for us as Christians is that we now know that we don’t live under that threat because Jesus took it all for us.” If the punishments Joshua warned about have been born by Jesus, why is it still valuable for us to study and heed Joshua’s warning?
- At the end of segment 2, Scott and host Darrell Delaney discuss the theological saying “the already and the not yet,” the reality that God’s kingdom has already come, but it has not yet fully come. Where do you see this concept of living in God’s “already and not yet” reality reflected?
- As host Darrell Delaney reflects on the Israelites’ inability to keep their commitment to be faithful to God, he says, “If you read the Bible, you know that no one can fully fulfill and perfectly keep God’s law and commandments.” What other Bible verses or stories can you recall that support this truth?

Related Passages

- **Joshua 1:1-9**
- **Matthew 5:13-16**
- **Deuteronomy 28**
- **Genesis 3:15**
- **2 Corinthians 1:18-20**
- **Matthew 28:20b**
- **Acts 2:38-39**
- **Philippians 1:6**
- **Isaiah 53**

Conclusion

Reflect on your life of faith. Have you, like the Israelites, ever made a commitment to God and failed to keep it? Why do you think you failed? Consider this quote from Darrell: “Whatever things are happening, we need to remember the consistent character of our God, who remains faithful in his promises, and he has done all of that through the work of Jesus Christ.” Does that give you hope? If so, why? How does it help or encourage you to follow Joshua’s command to love the Lord your God, to remain faithful to him, and to serve him?

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