

“The Danger of Lip Service”

Joshua 24 – Judges 2

Open:

- **Joshua 24** – The *Challenge* and the *Commitment*
 - The *Challenge* to remain true to their calling. **vs. 1-13**
 - The history of man before the flood **vs. 1-2**
 - The calling of Israel to be separated from the world **vs. 3**
 - The deliverance from Egypt **vs. 4-7**
 - Victory in Canaan **vs. 8-13**
 - The *Commitment* to serve God. **vs. 14-28**
 - **vs. 15** – “...we will serve the Lord.”
 - **vs. 16** – “...God forbid we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;”
 - **vs. 18** – “...therefore will we also serve the Lord; for he is our God.”
 - **vs. 21** – “...we will serve the Lord.”
 - **vs. 24** – “...The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice will we obey.”
- Judges 1 – The *Change*
 - Changed their dependance from God to man. **vs. 1-3**
 - Changed their dwelling place to being among the heathen. **vs. 16**
 - Changed their drive from complete victory to compromise. **vs. 20-34**
- Judges 2 – The *Carnality*
 - We find the older generation being satisfied with incomplete victory. **vs. 1-5**
 - We find the next generation forsaking God because of a lack of a personal relationship with God. **vs. 10-15**
 - We find God’s people transferring their obedience from being based on principle to the person in charge. **vs. 16-23**

Tran:

- Notice the quick digression from victory to defeat. They changed their dependance on God to a dependance on man and soon after stopped experiencing complete victory.
- Notice the quick digression from change to carnality. The moment they stopped living life God’s way, they began to be infiltrated with the carnality of the enemy.
- Notice the quick digression from blessings to cursings. The moment they stopped obeying God is the moment they began to experience the removal of God’s hand of blessings from their lives.

I. When you make a commitment to God, be prepared to keep it.

- **Ecc. 5:4-5** “When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. [5] Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.”
- A. **Don’t make foolish vows. Think before you commit. Judges 11: 30-35** “**And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD**, and said, *If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, [31] Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD’S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. [32] So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands. [33] And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. [34] And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. [35] And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: **for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.**”*

- B. God would rather slow obedience than a mouth that's quick to commit and hands that never work.
Mt. 21:28-31 *"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. [29] He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. [30] And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. [31] Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. **Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.**"*
- C. Be prepared to deal with the consequences of not keeping your commitment to God.
Joshua 24:19-20 *"And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. [20] If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good."*

II. Don't change in your commitment to God when circumstances get difficult.

- When the leadership they had always known had died they began to reveal the lack of dependance on God and exposed their carnality in their dependence on the security of man. **Judges 1:1-3** *"Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? [2] And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. [3] And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot. So Simeon went with him."*
- A. We must realize the only way to attain victory is by complete and faithful obedience to the battle plans that God has given us in His Word. **Lk. 9:62** *"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
- **II Tim 2:4-5** *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. [4] No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. [5] And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."*
- B. If our faith is in God, we should remain unmoved because our faith is in the One Who never changes.
I Cor. 15:57-58 *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*
- **I John 5:4** *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*
- C. Do not be fooled into believing that man's way can bring about a better result than faith in God.
Col. 2:4-8 *"And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. [5] For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. [6] As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: [7] Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. [8] Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*
- **Ps. 52:6-7** *"The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: 7 Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness."*

III. **Don't allow the carnality of mediocracy to lull you into settling for anything less than complete victory.**

- In Judges 1, we find, sixteen times, God stating that the promised victory was never attained.
 - Judges 2 shows us that in this failure of incomplete victory. We also find an unnecessary expositor to a lifestyle God warned would bring a snare to His people and that He would judge.
- A. Don't be tricked into believing that settling for anything less than what God intended for you to have will bring satisfaction in life. Gal. 4:9 *"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?"*
- **James 1:16-17** *"Do not err, my beloved brethren. [17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*
- B. Recognize that the only way to escape the corruption of this world is to obey God's Word. Rom. 6:16 *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"*
- **II Peter 1:4** *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*
- C. Do not fail to recognize that God is seeking to give you victory over the very enemy you're entertaining the thought of making peace with. II Peter 2:19 *"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."*
- **II Peter 2:17-18** *"These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. [18] For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error."*

Close: I Peter 5:8 *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [9] Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."*

- God never intended for anything other than complete victory and full satisfaction for His children. The only reason God's children never experience the life God intended is because of a lack of complete obedience to His word.
- When you make a commitment to God, be prepared to keep it.
- Don't change in your commitment to God when circumstances get difficult.
- Don't allow the carnality of mediocracy to lull you into settling for anything less than complete victory.

James 1:22

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."