

Joshua 23:1-16 “Joshua’s Speech-Warnings” (3/10/2024)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Joshua 23:1-16

1. Joshua addressed all the leaders of Israel (23:1-3). “These men who had seen Yahweh’s mighty work in the conquest and will outlive Joshua (24:31) bear a special responsibility to anchor Israel in spiritual faithfulness to the Lord and to spur Israel on to total occupation of the land” (Joshua: No Falling Words a Focus on the Bible Series p. 182 by Dale Ralph Davis)

What works of the Lord stimulate you to remain faithful? To whom are you responsible for to encourage faithfulness to the Lord? How do you encourage others to remain faithful?

2. God’s benevolent acts towards Israel were many. Joshua spoke of the “good” Israel had received from the Lord. What were the good things of which Joshua spoke? Reflect on your own life and share about some of the good things the Lord has given you.

3. In response to all the good things given to Israel, loyalty to the LORD was expected of the people. From this passage find the specific ways they were to remain loyal.

4. Consider how Joshua sought to motivate the people to obedience and faithfulness by referring to the grace of God (23:9-10) and the fear of God (23:11-13).
What motivates you to obedience and faithfulness?

5. "Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off" (Romans 11:22).

How does Romans 11:22 portray the choice given to the Israelites in Joshua 23: 15-16?
Discuss if you find an application for people today.

6. Judges 2:10 discloses the Israelites' choice regarding loyalty to God: "And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel."

The fact that a **faithless** generation can arise from the tracks of a **faithful** generation should impress what lessons for us?