

As For Me and My House

(Commitment Series Part 6)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Joshua's life was spent in service to Moses. He recounted the mighty things God did for His people. He experienced a lot when he was young: the parting of the sea, pestilence, thunderstorm, hail, fire, 3 days of darkness, and the death of the first born son. His trip to the desert lasted 40 years. In later years, he led God's people in battle to the promised land; he saw God crumble the walls of Jericho. He led a full life and had scars from a lot of battles. During his leadership, he saw the power of God. He affirmed to the people that he and his household will serve the Lord (Josh 24:14-24).

1. When he started to realize that death was near, he gathered the people: to remind them of God's mighty works and to renew their commitment to God. He demanded a standard of service:

- 1.1. To fear the Lord, which is beginning of wisdom.
- 1.2. To serve the Lord with all faithfulness (1 Cor 4:2). He remained faithful until death (2 Tim 2:13). Similarly, we must finish what is entrusted to us no matter the trials/storms/inconvenience (Lk. 12:42:44; Dt 7:9)
- 1.3. He called them to throw away all other gods, and serve God alone. What are the things we idolize? Self, social media, security/ business, social approval, relationships, success, wealth, food (gluttony), material things.

2. **Let us emulate those who persevered through struggles (Mt 6:24):**

- 2.1. St. Paul served God faithfully (Phil 4:11-12). The best road is serving God with faithfulness even if the road is not easy (Matt 25:21). He detached himself from possessions (2Tim3:12).
- 2.2. Moses was a reluctant leader but he led the Israelites out of Egypt (Exo. 14).

2.3 Joseph was highly favoured but went through trials (Gen 45:7-8).

2.4 Let us look to God and recall what He has given us. It is easy to carry out our own desires, but God demands all. Let us start small, and enrich what we are given. With all the sacrifices, the rewards will be glorious. God saves in time of affliction (Si 2:10-11).

3. **The people's response and Joshua's response:**

3.1 The people affirmed their desire to serve God and cited His goodness.

3.2 However, Joshua responded: "you are not able to serve the Lord. "God is holy (beyond, distinct and unfathomable) and He is jealous (God's love is strong and will not expect anything less)."

4. **We can only do something with the grace of God.**

4.1 Let us serve the Lord and hear His voice. This means we must hear the call to obey.

4.2 Our service should be based on God's character. If we base it on His actions (when He doesn't give what we ask for), then we will waver.

4.3 God is so much more than we can dare to imagine. Jesus bridges the separation with God. We can do anything through Christ who gives us strength.

Conclusion: Let us be committed together for what is true according to God's Word (Prov. 27:17). Serve no matter what, no matter when. We will receive favours we least expect.

Reflection:

1. Are you discontented?
2. Would you give up? What hope do you have?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we ask that You help us to no longer live in the realm of Christian convenience, but rather decide to become totally committed to serving You. Amen!