



Sermon Notes

Topic: Joshua's Challenge

Preacher: Ps Sam Toms

Date: 2nd March 2025

Bible Passage: Joshua 24:14-15

Sermon Summary

Joshua's farewell address to Israel in Joshua 24 challenges us to remain faithful to God and finish well. Reflecting on Israel's journey—40 years in the wilderness, seven years conquering the land—Joshua urges them to continue walking with God after his passing. He recounts God's faithfulness, then calls them to decisively serve the Lord, rejecting idols that have subtly crept into their lives. Idols, often beginning as good things, become ultimate things when they displace God. Joshua makes a bold declaration: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." This challenge applies today—our culture constantly pushes against the lordship of Christ, and we must actively own our spiritual domains, shaping them with God-centered leadership.

Drifting away from faith is a real danger, both for individuals and families. Like a boat in a strong current, we can slowly be pulled away without noticing. Joshua warns the people that they cannot serve God half-heartedly—He is a holy and jealous God. True faith requires surrender, throwing away hidden idols, and yielding every aspect of life to God. To identify our idols, we must honestly examine where our money, attention, and desires go. Finishing well means recognizing and resisting the subtle drift, setting a spiritual tone in our families, and committing, like Joshua, to serving the Lord in every area of life.



Sermon Notes

Life Group Study Guide

Finishing Well: Owning Your Domain

Main Scripture: Joshua 24:14-24

Opening Question:

- Have you ever reunited with an old friend and noticed a change in their spiritual life, for better or worse? What stood out to you?

Read Joshua 24:14-15

- Why does Joshua challenge the Israelites to serve God with full faithfulness?
- What does Joshua mean by “throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped”?
- How do idols subtly creep into our lives today?

Read Joshua 24:19-24

- Why does Joshua say, “You are not able to serve the Lord”? What point is he making?
- What does it mean for God to be “holy” and “jealous”? How is this different from human jealousy?
- The people insist they will serve the Lord. What does Joshua require of them in verse 23?



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Application Questions:

- 1. Owning Your Domain** – Joshua took responsibility for the spiritual direction of his household. How can you take ownership of your home, workplace, or friendships for Christ?
- 2. Identifying Idols** – Hidden idols camouflage themselves in good things. Ask yourself:
 - Where does my money go most freely?
 - What consumes my thoughts?
 - What competes with my commitment to God and His church?
- 3. Spiritual Drift** – Have you ever experienced seasons of drifting in your faith? What helped bring you back?
- 4. Thermostat vs. Thermometer** – Are you setting the spiritual culture in your home or just reflecting what's around you? What steps can you take to lead spiritually?
- 5. Yielding to God** – What's one area of your life you need to fully surrender to God's leadership this week?

Challenge for the Week:

Ask a close friend, spouse, or mentor: “What area of my life do you think is most at risk of becoming an idol?” Pray for each other and take a step toward removing that idol.