

“Learning to Walk with God”
“Week 12: A Closing Call to Commitment”
Faith Bible Church
December 13, 2009

Joshua 24:1-28 (New American Standard)

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel and for their heads and their judges and their officers; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods. ³ 'Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac. ⁴ 'And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau, and to Esau I gave Mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. ⁵ 'Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt by what I did in its midst; and afterward I brought you out. ⁶ 'And I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and Egypt pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. ⁷ 'But when they cried out to the Lord, He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them and covered them; and your own eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness for a long time. ⁸ 'Then I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan, and they fought with you; and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land when I destroyed them before you. ⁹ 'Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel, and he sent and summoned Balaam the son of Beor to curse you. ¹⁰ 'But I was not willing to listen to Balaam. So he had to bless you, and I delivered you from his hand. ¹¹ 'And you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho; and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Thus I gave them into your hand. ¹² 'Then I sent the hornet before you and it drove out the two kings of the Amorites from before you, but not by your sword or your bow. ¹³ 'And I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.' ¹⁴ "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." ¹⁶ And the people answered and said, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs in our sight and preserved us through all the way in which we went and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed. ¹⁸ "And the Lord drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." ¹⁹ Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has done good to you." ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord." ²² And Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you

have chosen for yourselves the Lord, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses." ²³ "Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." ²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice." ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. ²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. ²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us; thus it shall be for a witness against you, lest you deny your God." ²⁸ Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance.

RESPONSIVE READING OF COMMITMENT

PASTOR: Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away anything which would lead you astray. Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.**

PASTOR: It is not easy to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God. If you forsake Him and place your loyalty elsewhere, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has done good to you.

PEOPLE: **No, but we will serve the Lord.**

PASTOR: You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the Lord, to serve Him.

PEOPLE: **We are witnesses.**

PASTOR: Put away any sin which is in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord.

PEOPLE: **We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice.**

PASTOR: Behold, these stones shall be for a witness against us, for they have heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us; thus they shall be for a witness against us, lest we deny our God.

