**As for Me and My House – Josh. 24:15**

**Focal Truth: God calls Christian family leaders to live & lead families of godliness**

Would you consider your family a godly family?

What are the characteristics of a family godliness?

How can we know what family godliness looks like?

*Joshua at the end of his life knew the importance of family godliness & the future generations to come*

*Joshua calls the family leaders together for a commitment to live in family godliness in the land of promise among families of ungodliness*

**Observation**

1. **God reminds family leaders of His salvation blessings on the past generations of their families 24:12-13**
2. He reminds them of their family history of idolatry inherited from their fathers 24:2
3. He reminds them of His blessing on Abraham & their forefathers 24:3-4
4. He reminds them of their forefathers’ deliverance from Egypt 24:5 – 7
5. He reminds them of His leadership of their forefathers into the promised land 24:8 -12
6. He reminds them of His gracious blessings on their forefathers 24:13
7. **Joshua calls family leaders to live as families of godliness 24:14**
8. Joshua calls them to fear the Lord
9. Joshua calls them to serve the Lord in sincerity & truth
10. Joshua calls them to turn from idolatry learned from their fathers

Ancient family practices of idolatry beyond the River – the father of Abraham

Ancient family practices of idolatry from Egypt – their fathers in Egypt

1. **Joshua calls family leaders to decide to live as families of godliness 24:15**

*Choose this day whom you will serve*!

1. Joshua calls them to decide if they want to serve the Lord
2. Joshua challenges them to make a choice to serve idols or the living God

*The families of Israel inherited ungodly idolatrous practices taught in their family heritage*

*The families of Israel now were living among the idolatrous ungodly families of the promised land adopting their idolatrous practices*

Deut. 10:12 – what does the Lord require of you? Fear the Lord, walk in His ways,

 Love Him and serve Him with all your heart & soul

1. **Joshua commits to lead his family to be a family of godliness 24:15**
2. Josh. 23:14 – Now today, I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words of the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed, all have been fulfilled for you, not one failed
3. Joshua commits personally to serve God – As for Me

*I will love God*

*I will fear God*

*I will serve God wholeheartedly*

Joshua was a man who followed God whole heartedly all his life

Num. 32:12 Caleb & Joshua followed the Lord fully

1. Joshua commits to lead his family to serve God – My house will serve the Lord

*I will lead my family to love God, fear God, serve God wholeheartedly*

1. Joshua commits to be a family of godliness in a land filled with families of ungodliness

1. **Joshua instructs family leaders to repent of living in family ungodliness 24:23 -24**
2. 24:23 – now therefore put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and

incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel

1. Joshua calls them to put away the idols in their families

*What kind of family idols does your family worship?*

1. Joshua calls them to turn their hearts to the Lord
2. The people commit to serve & obey God

**24:24 – the people said to Joshua, we will serve the Lord our God, and we will obey His voice**

**Sadly, their commitment was not passed down to their children**

Jud. 2:10 and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel

Jud. 3:1 – then the Sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord

Jud. 10:6 – the Sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served, Baal…they forsook the Lord & did not serve Him

**Things to Remember**

1. Ungodly family practices inherited from your families are present in every generation of families
2. The ungodliness of fathers & mothers leaves children an example of ungodly living
3. The sin of family ungodliness brings great spiritual destruction to future family generations - Jud. 2:10
4. Godly family leader’s greatest responsibility is to lead families of godliness – As for me and my family we will serve the Lord

**Daily Use – Family Challenge**

1. As a family make a commitment to put God first in all your actions & activities
2. As a family talk about how your family puts God first in everything
3. As a family talk about how your family does not put God first
4. As a family believe in the Lord Jesus Christ & follow Him

**Today I call all the family leaders – parents, grandparents & great grandparents to make a commitment this day.**

**As for me and my house we will serve the Lord! If you join me in this commitment, would you stand!**