

Joshua 22-24 choose who...?

Introduction

Well we have made our choice now we must live with the consequences. We have cast our votes or not, and now others have made choices and I hope by now that a new government is formed.

Joshua has grown old just as God had told him! He was now ready to admit it himself (Joshua 23:2) and he makes his farewells. He calls the people of God to choose between the God who saved them and the gods around them in the land or even in their history (Joshua 24: 15).

We too must make such a choice, and although we come to the decisive moment when we decide to follow Christ is that the only time we choose? How often do we need to choose to carry that through in the daily decisions of life?

Read chapter 22: 1-6.

1. What did Joshua commend these tribes for and in what ways should seek to be like them? What had these tribes chosen to leave in order to help the other tribes (see v.7) and what risks and sacrifices do you think they might have had to make? Are risks and sacrifices all part of fulfilling our God given mission? Why? How far do you think we choose as Christians and churches today to play it safe? How far in your opinions are we prepared to choose to make necessary sacrifices to fulfil our mission?
2. What did Joshua encourage the tribes to do (v.5)? What was the key to what they were asked to do? What level of devotion does Joshua urge upon them and how does this relate to the commands of Jesus? Cp. Mt. 22: 37; Dt.6:5-6. In what ways do you think that following these commands would change the things we choose?

Read Ch 23: 6-16

3. In v.6 – 11 what additional commands does Joshua give to the leaders? How would you apply these in your own life? How might we choose to 'deviate' to the right or left? Since we are called to be salt and light in the world, how can we not choose to associate with people who serve 'other gods'? What gods are we most likely to be drawn to?
4. Encouragement is given the leaders of Israel in v9 – 10 to believe that God will protect them. How does this apply to us in view of the fact that

'bad things happen to good people' and in the light of all the sufferings of Christ in which we share? Cf Acts 14:22; Heb 13:5-6; 1 Pet 1: 4b –7.

5. **Read v 12—14.** What warning does Joshua give to the leaders of Israel and what encouragement from their history? Why were the servants of God so often referring back to what God had done in their history? Is it important for us to choose to remember what God has done for us in the past? Why? If so how can we do this? Why might these particular settlers forget God? Why might we?
6. The people of Israel were given an inheritance which they had yet to fully enter into. Do think that we are inclined to believe that there is nothing else to discover in Christ or our experience of Him? How ready are we to embrace the Christian adventure?

Prayer

Pray about any issues that have arisen from the study. Pray for our joint mission and the individuals who we long to see come to follow Christ.