

Joshua 23-24: Parting Encouragement

Getting started: How has God used encouragement in your life? Name a time when encouragement helped you set a good course or make a course correction.

Read 23:1-16**Remembering to Follow God**

1. When Joshua was old, in what ways did he remind Israel of God's faithfulness? (vv. 1-5) What response was he seeking from the people? (vv. 6, 8, 11)
2. What warning did Joshua give if they failed to remain faithful to the Lord? (v. 12-13). What hopeful word did he give concerning God's word to Israel? (v. 14) What did Joshua predict would happen if the people failed to follow the Lord? (vv. 15-16).

Read 24:1-28**Rehearsing God's Goodness**

3. After gathering the elders and leaders to himself, what does Joshua rehearse before all the people? What does this history reveal about God's relationship with Israel? How can recalling history be a boost to our own journey of faith?
4. How did God thwart the purposes of Balaam? (v. 10) What clever way did Joshua use to describe the conquest of Canaan? (v. 12) What common theme did these events – the Exodus, Balaam, conquest – highlight?

5. Based on God's goodness and generosity, what response was Joshua hoping from the people? (vv. 13-14) What commitment had Joshua already made? (v. 15)
6. What warning did Joshua give these same people before accepting their promise to serve the Lord? (vv. 19-24) What did Joshua mean when he said the Lord is holy and jealous and will not forgive your sins? (v. 19)
7. In what two tangible ways did Joshua commemorate the covenant the people were making with God that day? (vv. 25-28)

Read 24:29-33**Passing on the torch**

8. Following Israel's renewed commitment to their covenant with God, what happened to Joshua? (v. 29) How long did Israel serve the Lord? (v. 31) Give an estimate in years of how long you think Israel was faithful to its covenant.

Going Deeper

This chapter ends with the death of Joshua, the burial of Joseph's bones and the death of the high priest, Eleazar (vv. 29-33). What does death necessitate with regard to the covenant? (c.f. Luke 18:8) Following Joshua's example, what can you do to perpetuate faith to the next generation?