

Joshua 24:13-16  
"Choose Wisely"

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**LANCASTER BAPTIST SCHOOL** Church

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1. Introduction
  - a. Joshua's farewell (24:1)
  - b. Joshua summarizes God's actions
  - c. Many choices throughout Israel's history
  - d. Tribal nature of Israel at the time
    - elders
    - judges
    - tribal heads
2. Review God's Faithfulness
  - a. Origins (Terah) father of Abraham & Nahor served false gods
  - b. Many times God did many things
    - "I did..." vs 3-6, 8, 10, 12
  - c. But many times Israel as nation murmured & complained against Moses & God
    - even Aaron & Miriam Moses' siblings complained
  - d. Deut 7:9 God the faithful God
    - God keeps His covenant
    - God shows mercy to those loving Him
  - e. Neh 9:17 But God still ready to pardon
    - God gracious & merciful
    - God slow to anger
3. Re-engage in God's Mission
  - a. Fear the Lord
  - b. Serve God in sincerity & truth
  - c. Put away (throw away) false gods
  - d. Jms 1:17 every good & perfect gift from above
  - e. Constant theme: Serve the Lord

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- 3f. Philp 1:10  
 - Christians to be sincere & without offense  
 - 3 Jn 1:14 joy to walk in truth

#### 4. Reject the Alternative

- a. Choose - look alternatives  
 - evil to serve the Lord?  
 \* false gods of ancestors  
 x Terah father of Abraham  
 x Golden calf that Aaron built
- b. - Josh 23:7-8 gods of pagan nation  
 \* make no mention of false gods  
 \* do not swear by them  
 \* do not bow down to them  
 \* do not serve them
- c. Joshua rejects the false gods

#### 5. Choose Whom to Serve - Resolve Faithful

- a. Joshua's example  
 - "As for me & my house, we will serve the Lord"
- b. Joshua's challenge  
 - "you choose for today whom to serve"  
 - Mt 6:24 no one can serve 2 masters  
 - Deut 6:6 These (God's) words in your heart
- c. People choose to serve the Lord (24:17-18)
- d. Israel served God all during Joshua's lifetime (24:31)  
 - also during elders' lifetimes who had known all God's works  
 \* they were younger generation
- e. LK 14: ~~26-27~~ 26-27 come follow Jesus bearing your (personal) cross

Jesus probably born 4 BCE  
 - Herod started rebuilding 2nd temple at 20 BCE (4 BCE)  
 - Jn 2:18-22 temple rebuilding for (26 BCE)  
 46 years at Jesus first year of ministry at First Passover (Jn 2:13-21)  
 - LK 3:23 Jesus began His ministry about 30 years old (4 BCE)