

Pre-Decision: Putting God First | Pastor Steve Wells | 01.08.2023  
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## Joshua 24:1-33 NLT

**Famous Verse:** "Choose this day whom you will serve...As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

We all make what seems like a million decisions every day. What time do we get up? Do we hit snooze? How many times? What should we wear—is it cold, hot, rainy, snowing? Do you want to eat breakfast or skip it—if you have kids what will you get them for breakfast? Coffee at home or pick one up? That is 6+ alone before you're out of bed! Do you make time in the morning to start the day with God? What or who is the first thing on your mind? Some decisions are in the moment and some decisions are a pre-decision, a decision we choose to make ahead of time, planning for our future and shaping our lives. Today, Pastor Steve preached through this passage, telling us about one of the most famous pre-decisions. Joshua firmly stated he would be making God his highest priority. That is a decision we all need to make for ourselves and our families. Read **Joshua 24:1-33** (NLT) then discuss the passage with your Small Group or family.

Joshua told the people many things God did for them and their ancestors. Have you taken time to really think about (maybe make a written list) of even some of the things God has done for you and your family? Think about what He has done for you, your family, other people you know.

## Joshua 24:14-20

**14** "So fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. **15** But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

**16** The people replied, "We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods. **17** For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. He performed mighty miracles before our very eyes. As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, He preserved us. **18** It was the Lord who drove out the Amorites and the other nations living here in the land. So we, too, will serve the Lord, for He alone is our God."

**19** Then Joshua warned the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy and jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. **20** If you abandon the Lord and serve other gods, He will turn against you and destroy you, even though He has been so good to you."

## Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you today in the message or while reading this passage?
- What is your highest priority each day? No matter what your day looks like—what will you always make time for? (Devotionals, Bible, Prayer, Television, Movies, Sports, Video Games, Reading, Friends, Music, Social Media, Phones, Cars/Trucks/Boats, Golfing, Fishing, Working Out, Etc.)
- What are examples of possible (or common) idols?
- What did Joshua tell the people the consequence of choosing other idols would be?
  - What comes to your mind when you read this?
- What idols stand in your way of making God your highest priority in your life?
- Pray and ask God to reveal any idol that interferes with your relationship with him.

**Pre-Decision #1:** I will make my relationship with God the highest priority of my life.

- Have you made this commitment?
- If so, have you really committed to putting God first?
- If not, are you ready to? If you are ready to make this commitment and need or want to talk to someone more please reach out to your Small Group leader, any Pastor at NPC, or text SURRENDER to 97000.