



## Becoming a People Who... Live by Vision

*A Household Vision*

Joshua 24:1-27

We are exploring what it means to be **A People who LIVE BY VISION**. Not vision in the familiar sense of planning for the future, but vision from God – HIS perspective about what is good, life-giving, & eternal. Vision – not just for us *individually* but for our HOUSEHOLD. The story of Joshua gives us insight...

“... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

This isn't a message just for “marrieds with children;” it is for singles, empty nesters, divorcees, widows, and all of us who have a meaningful *relational sphere* of family, extended family, friends. Our *household* is any and all we hold dear in our lives. Whoever makes up our *household* – what is our vision?

We read Joshua's passionate declaration; it sounds simple enough, but it is NOT as easy as it sounds. *Saying* it is one thing; **living it out** is a much deeper matter. Just consider Joshua's own scenario . . .

It's hard to follow “the Man!”

- Joshua was taking the baton of leadership (of the Hebrew nation) from
  - Moses - top of the list in the Old Testament Hall of fame!
- Joshua was assuming command of the Hebrew armies in their conquest of the land of Canaan.
- Joshua would oversee the settlement of the land among the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Joshua would be the one responsible to hold the Hebrew people to their covenant with Yahweh; This responsibility was rooted in his own **HOUSEHOLD vision** – “as for me and my household ...”

Joshua 24:1-27 recaps the essence of covenant with God, the heart of a Household Vision:

### **:1-4 God keeps His covenants and promises.**

Here at Shechem, where God 1<sup>st</sup> revealed to Abraham that He would give this land to his descendants (Gen 12:1-9), God says to the people (*through Joshua*) – “what I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, I am now fulfilling.” God is reminding them – “I keep my promises.”

### **:14-18 God expects US to keep our covenants.**

“now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness ... choose this day whom you will serve.” Serving the Lord, honoring our covenant, is a choice. Will we serve the idols and gods of our land, our selfish flesh OR will we honor and serve God our Creator-Redeemer? Jesus reminds us “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will despise the one and be devoted to the other. You can't serve both God and Money (things of the world, idols, self).” Matt 6:24

\* Families, singles, households – are you and those with you “serving the Lord”?

\* Where are you investing your time and energies (job, sports, leisure, media, etc. **OR** worship, community, scripture, prayer, service to others, etc.)?

**:19-22 YOU are not able to keep your covenant (*on your own*), but God is able/willing to help you.**

God has made provision for our weakness and covenant-fickleness . . . through the gracious redemption of Jesus, and the (transforming, empowering) indwelling of Holy Spirit, and the support and accountability of community. In CHRIST, in HOLY SPIRIT, in COMMUNITY we/our household can be true! We live in the NEW covenant of grace through the cross of Jesus.

**:23-24 Remove whatever is keeping your household from serving God.**

“throw away the foreign idols that are among you and yield your hearts to God.”

*Some* (worldly, sinful) things need to be discarded altogether, but many things (not inherently evil) simply need to be “shifted” – their place/priority in our lives.

How much of our time and heart do such things occupy?

Jesus drives this “priority principle” home in Matt. 6:32-33 – “seek **FIRST** the kingdom of God.”

**:25-27 So HOW do we establish a covenant, a household vision?**

1. Pray and ask Holy Spirit to speak and guide your heart and mind (God *wants* to help you!)
2. What attentions need to be REMOVED from your household?
3. What attentions need to be ADDED?
4. What does the future of your household look like? (What fruit will the above bring forth?)
5. Solidify this covenant, these resolves, this vision with an “altar stone” (a written doc, a picture, a symbolic object). Pray and worship around this “altar stone.”

*“Joshua recoded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large (altar) stone and set it there under the oak near the holy place of the Lord. See, he said to the people, this stone will be a witness against (for) us.”*

“Father, refresh in us of our commitment to “serve you, Lord.”

“Jesus, remind us that you are not just Savior but Lord. You call us to FOLLOW you.”

“Holy Spirit, help us be true to our covenant. Empower us to walk with you, to live in you

... us and all our household.”