

“Trusting A Father I Can’t See”
(Joshua 24:1-28)

~ INTRO. ~

WE LIVE IN A WORLD...

- Confused about truth / identity / morality / purpose /
 - AND even what it means to have character.
- This is why (Joshua 24) is so relevant.

AS YOU READ THE BIBLE...

- You see the people God uses.

PEOPLE WHO FAILED...

- BUT were given second chances...
 - And... who became strong in faith.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Abraham = Father of faith (who worshipped the moon god)
- Moses = Humble man (yet he killed a guy)
- David = An everyday man (got lazy & committed sin)

THESE MEN...

- Grew to trust a father they couldn’t see.

IN JEWISH CULTURE...

- Fathers were expected to provide leadership...
 - In both spiritual and practical ways.

DAD’S WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR...

- Helping their children to know God...
 - While also preparing them for daily life.

IDEA #1 – REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU

IN (vv.3-13)...

- Joshua reminded the people about the goodness of God.
- He pointed out that God...
 - Gave them a heritage (spiritual fathers of faith).
 - Delivered them from political oppression (Exodus).

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- Gave them a homeland (Israel).
- God gave them cities & farmland (which they did not build).

JOSHUA...

- Spoke about the hard times along the road of life.

HOWEVER...

- His highlight was focused on how God fought for them!
- It **wasn’t** about their failures of faith...
 - Their struggles OR setbacks.
 - It was all about God’s faithfulness...
 - (A father who could be trusted!)

LESSON:

- The enemy wants you to remember your failures.
 - God wants you to remember His faithfulness.

IDEA #2 – CHOOSE WHO YOU WILL BE

AFTER REMINDING THE PEOPLE OF THE PAST...

- Then Joshua called for a wholehearted commitment (vv.14-27)...
 - It was a response to God’s grace.

(v.15) is one of the greatest leadership verses in Scripture.

Leadership begins with personal surrender.

- A father cannot lead his family where he’s unwilling to go.
 - And the same is true for single moms too.

Questions:

- Do our children see genuine faith?
- Do they hear our prayers?
- Do they see us repent?
- Do they know what matters most to us?

Our children don't need perfect parents.

- They need authentic parents.
 - Parents who love Jesus.
 - Parents who admit mistakes.

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- Parents who get back up.

IDEA #3 – LEAVE A LEGACY THAT LASTS

One day at your funeral.

- People won't talk about how many emails you answered.
- They won't talk about how many hours you worked.
- They won't talk about how much money you made.

They'll talk about the kind of person you were...

- And whether you lived a life of faith.

The greatest thing a father leaves behind...

- Is not money, property, or achievements – it's faith.

JOSHUA...

- Wasn't leaving Israel an inheritance...
 - He was leaving them a testimony – faith.

AND...

- If they were going to accept God's authority...
 - Then they couldn't live faithless lives.

PRACTICAL LESSON...

- There are two common obstacles that hinder...
 - The passing of faith to our kids:

a) **Being absent**

- Being too busy to develop your kids...
 - Physically / emotionally / or spiritually.

When kids lack consistent spiritual guidance...

- They often struggle with direction / purpose / gratitude...
 - And even good judgment.

b) **Being careless**

- Instruction at home starts early...
 - As we shape our child's obedience.

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The routines & standards that you live out in your home...

- Communicate what is important about life.

- #1) Do your kids see that you take your faith seriously?
- #2) Are you helping your kids understand the Bible & prayer?
- #3) Are you teaching them practical skills & responsibilities?

REMEMBER...

- (Proverbs 22:6) NKJV
*“Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

- The idea is to teach our children motivation & restraint.
 - Answering the... what AND why’s of life.

AT THE END OF LIFE...

- The biggest inheritance you can leave your kids...
 - Is a life of faith they can carry-on.

IDEA #4 – WHEN EARTHLY FATHERS FAIL

Many people come into Father's Day carrying wounds.

- Absent fathers
- Abusive fathers
- Broken relationships with your father
- A father who has passed away

So you dread Father’s Day.

I’M SORRY!!!

- I know firsthand of how that hurts.

YET... Father's Day is not a celebration of perfect fathers.

- It’s a reminder that we have a perfect Heavenly Father...
 - That will one day make all things right.

(Psalm 27:10) NLT

“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close.”

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(Isa. 63:16) NLT

“Surely you are still our Father! Even if Abraham and Jacob would disown us, LORD, You would still be our Father...”

~ IN CLOSING ~

JOSHUA...

- Stood before a nation and made a public decision for his family.

TODAY...

- Some fathers need encouragement...
- Some fathers need forgiveness...
- Some fathers need to re-engage.

AND...

- Some kids need healing...
- Some families need restoration...
- Some marriages need fresh hope.

But all of us... need to answer Joshua's question:

- *“Who will we serve?”*

Because the decisions we make today...

- Become the legacy we leave tomorrow.

AMEN!