



Leading by Example
December 9, 2018
Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24

“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

Some think it is evil to serve the LORD. Some make no effort to obey the LORD as God has revealed His nature and character in the Bible. Others express open hostility toward those who try to obey and serve the LORD. Some quietly modify what the Bible teaches about God to suit the ways they want to believe and behave; then, they try to convince others to think and act as they do. Joshua faced similar problems. Some people in the Promised Land believed in the LORD, but they also trusted in the idols that their ancestors and they had collected during their travels. When they acted as though the LORD would accept their idolatry without consequences, they ignored the Law of Moses and the LORD’s covenant with them. Joshua spoke for the LORD when he said that their modified religious practices indicated they thought it was evil to serve the LORD, for the LORD required His people to love, serve, and worship the LORD exclusively. Instead, many of those who had entered the Promised Land trusted in their idols to assure them of safety, security, and success. Joshua told the people to put away their idols and incline their hearts to the LORD, to fear the LORD and serve the LORD in sincerity and faithfulness. By word and deed, Joshua and his house served as examples; then, the people followed and obeyed the LORD.

Thinking Further

1. How did the leaders and people know that Joshua’s words would be important to them?
2. What seemed the biggest problem the Israelites faced?
3. What are some of the first truths Joshua told the Israelites?
4. What are some of the commands Joshua gave the people?
5. How did the people respond to Joshua’s efforts to renew the people’s side of God’ covenant (agreement) with them?