

# Choosing Who You'll Serve

- I. Joshua's Call to Israel: **Joshua 24:14-24**
  - a. Context of Joshua's call to abiding commitment
  - b. Observations: People who've been serving need to make their commitment fresh
  - c. The commitment to serve God is not to be made lightly
  - d. It is not a choice that will be easy and without difficulty
  
- II. Elijah's Call to the People at Carmel: **1 Kings 18:20-24**
  - a. Context of Israel's continually broken commitment
  - b. Our commitment to serve can be easily pulled away by the desires that we harbor in our hearts
  - c. Sometimes our sin makes us cowardly and unable to make the choice we know we ought to
  - d. It is easy to make a commitment to serve when the victory seems overwhelming--but is difficult to sustain without a genuine foundation of desire
  
- III. Jehu as a Cautionary Tale of Commitment: **II Kings 10:15-17; 28-31**
  - a. Jehu was given a job to do, and he *did it well*; list of accomplishments
  - b. Overall, he was not remembered as a faithful king...why?
  - c. He enjoyed the portion of a commitment to God that he agreed with and benefited from; however, the rest, he was uninterested in following.
  - d. His motives for following God also became impure as a result: (Hosea 1:4)
  
- IV. A Reminder About Our Other Choice:
  - a. Illus. of not Idols not being able to appreciate what you sacrifice, not just their inability to provide **Psa. 115:1-8**
  - b. God is the only one who can reward us for serving
  - c. God is the only one who can truly command us to serve
  - d. God is the only one who can truly *appreciate* our service
  - e. There are many people, places, and efforts that we can place our service and trust--God is the only place that makes any sense
  - f. Our Service can get disrupted by:
    - i. Forgetfulness and a half-hearted level of commitment
    - ii. The cowardice that comes by being given over to sin
    - iii. Having convinced ourselves that we are serving when we truly are not
    - iv. Whatever the case...let this be a year of commitment