

Stay The Course (Joshua 23:1-11)

By Faith sermon series

By Pastor David Hillis, 05.20.18

BIG IDEA: A life of faith matures through a *lifetime* of faithfulness — each and every day, truly desiring in your heart to take one step closer to Jesus.

A Daily Call to Faithfulness

- Every new day is filled with the subtlest of temptations that seek to distract us, change us, make us more selfish and less able to hear the still, small voice of God in our lives.
- Each day we awake from sleep we must make a conscious choice to make space, so we can draw closer to Him, pursuing the heart and will of God.

Joshua's Final "BIG 3" Reminders

1. Actively listening & obeying the voice of God in my life. (Joshua 1:8, 23:6; Psalm 1:2, 119:11; Proverbs 14:12, 16:25)

- When we surrender our lives to Christ, therefore having the Holy Spirit living within us, we can hear His voice at any time, but we tend to be too preoccupied to be still, quiet and listen for the voice of God.
- It only takes some simple adjustments to our daily schedule, in order to make space to listen and obey Him, as we pursue the heart and will He has for our lives.

2. Being sensitive to the subtle pulls of our culture to shape me. (Joshua 23:7; Romans 12; 1 John 2:15-17)

- We underestimate how much influence the people we hang out with, the TV shows, movies and news we watch, have the ability to mold and shape our moods, our attitudes, our opinions, even our perspectives on life.
- For us to stay the course with our faith, we must be sensitive and come to accept that these things in our lives keep us distracted from hearing God and they steal away all the moments we could instead, give to God and listen to him.

3. Pursuing a relationship with God. (Joshua 23: 8, 11; Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 7:7-8, 10:14-16; Matthew 22:36-38)

- Jesus' invitation is that we intentionally move closer to Him, requiring us to simplify our lives, slow down a little and not be uncomfortable with quiet.
- Making a conscious choice to pursue a relationship with God, helps us to stay the course with whatever challenges we face.

MY NEXT STEP: *Will you commit today to a lifetime of faithfulness — each and every day, pursuing to live for Christ? What structure do you/will you have to ensure that?*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. If you have been following along in reading through Joshua in this series, your final assignment is to read Joshua 23-24 and Judges 1-2. Read them without being in a rush; pay attention to verses or phrases that stand out to you. What might God be saying to you here in these chapters about staying the course and finishing life well one day? Can you wholeheartedly make such a commitment to God today about your life? What happened by Judges 2 that doesn't match what was promised in Joshua 24?
2. Spend some time considering the words in 2 Peter 1:3-11. Perhaps make this a focus of your prayers and meditation on God's Word this week. There is so much here! How does it speak to you about growing in faith? What do you learn from this passage, or what are you glad to be reminded of, that will help you build this structure into your life?
3. Read and consider the supplemental Scriptures regarding actively listening & obeying the voice of God in your life (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2, 119:11; Proverbs 14:12, 16:25). How do these passages speak to you?
4. Read and consider the supplemental Scriptures regarding being sensitive to the subtle pulls of our culture to shape us (Romans 12; 1 John 2:15-17). How do these passages speak to you?
5. Read and consider the supplemental Scriptures regarding pursuing a relationship with God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 7:7-8, 10:14-16; Matthew 22:36-38). How do these passages speak to you?
6. Please consider sticking Pastor Dave, Teresa and Isaac's names somewhere as a reminder to pray for them each day while they are away. Also save the date Saturday, Sept. 1, when Pastor Debby will speak and lead a mini-retreat being held at the Redemptorist Center in Tucson. It will be the first day Pastor Dave is back, and he will talk some from his heart about some of the things he has learned from his time away.