

# Family TableTalk

Conversation 68

## Who Will You Serve?

read

*Joshua 24:14-18*

think

God's servant Joshua has led the nation of Israel out of their years of wandering in the wilderness and into the land God had promised they would inherit as a place to find rest. The Book of Joshua records how they crossed into the promised land of Canaan, they took over the land of Canaan, and they settled the land of Canaan. Now, with his

God-given mission accomplished and his days numbered, God's leader Joshua gathers everyone together and addresses the people.

He begins by recounting for them the history of God's faithful provision and deliverance. And then he presents them with a choice. The choice is one we all face: Will we serve the One True God who has called us and loved us? Or will we choose to follow some combination of the idols that can so easily steal our time, our focus, and our allegiance? Joshua then states his own resolve: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Why is it important for us to daily consider the choices we make regarding who or what we worship? The fact of the matter is that we are no different than the Israelites. Even though God has chosen us, our sinful natures make us deeply susceptible to turning away from serving God, to so easily running after the idols that will undo us. You see, even though the Israelites answer Joshua's challenge with a resounding "Therefore we all will serve the Lord, for he is our God" (v. 18), reading their history after this incident points to the fact that they wandered away from God to serve other gods. . . over and over again.

There's an old hymn that captures the reality of this challenge we all face, and our need to reboot each and every day with the resolve to follow Jesus rather than the desires of our own hearts. "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" includes these lines: "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, Oh, take and seal it. . . seal it for Thy courts above."

apply

- Today, chances are you won't encounter any physical statues of idols. But what are the idols you will encounter that call for your time, attention, and allegiance?
- What resources has God given us to help us draw closer to Him, while helping us avoid the trap of idolatry?
- Go to YouTube and find a version of the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Listen together as a family, and then take a few minutes to sing along.

pray

Almighty God, your faithfulness to your people throughout history is absolutely astounding. Out of gratitude for what you have done for us through Jesus Christ, may we remain faithful to you. Expose to us the idols that we so easily follow. Give us a deep revulsion to other gods, and a deep love and desire for You and you alone. Amen.

**by Walt Mueller**

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