

Our theme at Believers Church this year is “Enabled Boldness”. (**Acts 4:29-31**)

I believe it is time for the church to rise up and boldly do what God has called us to do.

We will move forward in boldness, enabled by the Holy Spirit, not just us as individuals but as **family units as well**. God is calling all our families to be “**Bold Families**”. Families that live by and boldly declare the truth of God’s Word and Lordship over our lives.

I Brought You Out

In **Joshua 24:1-5** Joshua challenges the people of God to renew their covenant with God.

He begins by reminding them that God rescued them out of the bondage of Egyptian slavery.

5 “**Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted the Egyptians by what I did there, and I brought you out.**”

I Gave Your Enemies into Your Hands

Joshua 24:6-8 He reminds them of the great victory at the Red Sea and how God brought them into the promised land and gave them a new home.

8 “**I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I gave them into your hands. I destroyed them from before you, and you took possession of their land.**”

I Blessed You and Delivered You

In **Joshua 24:9-13** he reminded them that Balak failed when he tried to have Balaam curse them.

10 **But I would not listen to Balaam, so he blessed you again and again, and I delivered you out of his hand.**

11 “**Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Gergashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands.**”

When I read this, I can’t help but to see the similarities of what God did for the Israelites compared to what God does for you and me.

- The Lord brought them out of their past. There are a lot of “past things” the Lord has brought us out of too! The Israelites needed to remember that, and we need to remember that too.
- God delivered them from their enemies, and God delivers us from our enemies too.
- When others tried to curse them, God turned it into a blessing instead, delivering them yet again. No weapon formed against us can prosper, we are a blessed people!
- God gave them cities for which they did not toil. We live in a city that we didn’t have to build. We eat what we didn’t have to plant.
- We are living in very good times! We are a blessed people living in a blessed nation!

Bold Next Steps

Considering what the Lord had done for them, what were they to do next? Their next step?

Considering all that God has done for us, what Bold Next Steps do we take now?

Joshua 24:14 “**Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness.**

Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.”

Bold Next Step. Today I will resolve to:

1. **Fear the Lord.** (Give Him the holy respect and honor that is due to Him.)
2. **Serve Him with all faithfulness.**
3. **Throw away the gods our ancestors worshiped and SERVE THE LORD!**

Choose Who Your Family Will Serve

Joshua 24:15

15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

You may not want to serve the Lord, but you are going to have choose for yourself this day who you will serve!

- A. You get to make a choice; serve the sinful ways of the past if you would rather.
*Well, this is the way I was raised... This is how my family has always done it....
This is the American way... This is fully acceptable in our society... I've always gotten by before.*
- B. You can choose for you and your family to serve the Lord.

You Will Have to Serve Somebody

People say, “*Hey, I’m my own person, and I’m not going to serve anybody. I’m not ready to serve God, but I’m certainly, not going to serve the devil.*”

It doesn’t work that way. You will be serving one or the other.

God has given us a FREE WILL! We have been created with the ability to make our own decisions.

- Notice, as you read the Bible through this year, that the entire history of Israel is an illustration of the fulfillment of God’s promises according to the people’s choices and their behavior. (Good or Bad)
- God doesn’t make people serve Him, but He does ask them to choose one way or the other.

Yes, I Choose to Serve the Lord

Joshua 24:16-18

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods!

17 It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.

18 And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. **We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.**

Maybe you and I would agree and say, “*Considering what the Lord has done for us, there is no way we will forsake the Lord and serve other gods!*” “*We too will serve the Lord, because He is our God.*”

A Bold and Serious Choice

Joshua 24:19-24

19 Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins.

(Now before you make a hasty decision, I just must tell you that I don’t think you can do it. I don’t think you are serious! This is a serious choice that will carry consequences with it!)

- 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”
- 21 But the people said to Joshua, **“No! We will serve the Lord.”**
- 22 Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.
- 23 “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”
- 24 And the people said to Joshua, **“We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”**
- Are you sure you want to serve the Lord? This is not a game we are playing!

A Bold Public Declaration

Joshua publicly professed.

Joshua 24:15 ...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Is a public confession really that important? Is a public declaration that important?

Some ask, *“Isn’t just believing it in my heart enough? Are our words really that powerful?”*

- Solomon the wisest man in the world declared, **“The tongue has the power of life and death...” Proverbs 18:21**
- Our words and public declaration are a big part of our salvation experience.

Romans 10:9-10

- 9 **If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**
- 10 **For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.**

Holy Spirit Enabled Declarations

Speaking of Enabled Boldness; we are also enabled by the Holy Spirit to declare Jesus is Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (NLT)

3 So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

You can choose not to declare Jesus as your Lord, but eventually everyone will.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NLT) Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Public Bold Next Step:

Today, I am going to give you an opportunity to publicly declare that Jesus is your Savior and Lord and declare that you and your house will serve the Lord!

“Jesus is my Savior and Lord and as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!”