

SERMON NOTES
April 10, 2016
T. Don Guthrie, preaching

The Choice

Joshua 23:1-3, 6-8; 24:14-15

"Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, come great decision,
Off'ring each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever
"Twixt that darkness and that light."
--James Russell Lowell

"You did not choose me, I chose you." (John 15:16)

"Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve." (Joshua 24:15)

"Choose life that you may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

- Cling to God (23:8) *da baq'* – "to stick close; to cleave"

- Fear God (24:14) *yare'* – "to fear; revere"

- Serve God (24:14) *'abad* = "to work; to labor"

- Influence Others

One choice? One moment?

Joshua 23:13, 6-8; 24:14-15

¹Now it came about after many days, when the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies on every side, and Joshua was old, advanced in years, ²that Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders and their heads and their judges and their officers, and said to them, "I am old, advanced in years. ³And you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the Lord your God is He who has been fighting for you.

⁶Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, ⁷so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make anyone swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them. ⁸But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.

^{24:14}"Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."