

Joshua 23

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Psalm 37:3 instructs the believer to, *Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.* To feed on God's faithfulness is to remember, reflect, and rely on all of God's faithfulness. Remembering, reflecting, and relying on these acts of faithfulness will fortify our faith, prepare us for future victory, and keep us from sin.

Joshua was now an old man and nearing death. He wanted to leave the children of Israel with the legacy of God's faithfulness. He knew that any future victories, as well as the establishment and sustainment of a godly nation, would require full dependency on God. Joshua assembled all of Israel and reminded them of God's faithfulness in fulfilling all His Word and promises to them thus far. To the proportion that the people trusted and obeyed God, they received the fulfillment of His promises. Now they needed to continue to reflect on God's faithfulness in order to move forward in victory. As long as Israel would continue to trust and obey God, victory was assured.

It is the same for us today. As we remember God's faithfulness in our lives: It fortifies our faith; it prepares us for future victory; it keeps us from sin; and it allows us to possess the promises God has given us through Christ Jesus.

*Ask God to help you remember, reflect,
and rely on His faithfulness.*

SECOND DAY: Read Joshua 23:1–3

1. God had greatly used Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land to possess their inheritance. It was now time for Joshua to give his farewell address. According to Joshua 23:1a, when did this take place and what had the Lord given to them?

a. What was Joshua's state at this time? Joshua 23:1b

2. Who did Joshua call together for this speech? Joshua 23:2a

a. Joshua acknowledged that he was *old, advanced in age* (Joshua 23:2b). Why do you think he publicly acknowledged this?

3. Joshua had *seen* God do great things in his lifetime. What did he remind the people that they had *seen*? Joshua 23:3a

a. Use the following Scriptures to remark on why it is important to remember God's faithfulness:

(1) Deuteronomy 4:9

(2) Deuteronomy 8:18

(3) Judges 3:7

(4) Psalm 20:7

(5) Psalm 106:13–15

b. Share something you do in order to remember God's work in your life.

4. Record Joshua's declaration in Joshua 23:3b.

a. Use the following verses to summarize the various ways in which God had fought for Israel:

(1) Joshua 2:9

(2) Joshua 6:2–5

(3) Joshua 8:18–19

(4) Joshua 10:10–14

(5) Joshua 10:32

(6) Joshua 11:6–8

(a) How has the history of God's faithfulness encouraged you?

5. Take a moment to reflect on *all that the LORD your God has done* for you. Share a reflection that especially stands out to you today.

THIRD DAY: Read Joshua 23:4–10

1. As Joshua addressed the people of Israel, he gave them essential exhortations. Use Joshua 23:4–8 to note and comment on:

- a. What Joshua had already done for Israel (verse 4)

- b. What the Lord would do for Israel (verse 5a)

- (1) What was the assurance that they would *possess their land*? (verse 5b)

- (a) Link this with Hebrews 10:23. What do you see?

- c. What Israel was to do in response (verses 6, 8)

- (1) Why do you think it would take courage to do these things?

(2) Why do you think this would be the key to Israel's continued success?

d. What Israel was **not** to do (verse 7)

(1) Warren Wiersbe says, *Imagine the folly of worshipping the gods of the defeated enemy.*⁷ How does this underscore Joshua's exhortation to *hold fast to the LORD*?

e. List the commands Joshua gave:

(1) Verse 6a — *Be*

(2) Verse 6b — *Do*

(3) Verse 7b — *You shall not*

(4) Verse 7c — *You shall not*

(5) Verse 8a — *But you shall*

(a) Why do you think these commands are still relevant today?

2. Use Joshua 23:9–10 to observe what resulted when the Lord fought for Israel. What stands out to you concerning:

a. The *nations*

b. The Israelites

c. God's promise

(1) Link this promise with the following Scriptures:

(a) Isaiah 54:17

(b) Romans 8:31

3. From today's study, what is your greatest personal encouragement?

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 23:11–13

1. In light of all the Lord had done and would accomplish for Israel, what did Joshua command them to do? Joshua 23:11a
 - a. Use the following Scriptures to comment on how you can *take careful heed*:
 - (1) Hebrews 2:1
 - (2) 2 Peter 1:5
 - (3) Jude 21
 - b. Connect Joshua 23:11b with Deuteronomy 7:9 and share a way you can stoke your passion for God.
2. If Israel did not *take careful heed*, a disastrous pitfall awaited them! Use Joshua 23:12 to observe this digression and comment on how to avoid this pitfall.
 - a. How does this underscore:
 - (1) The danger of going *back* to your former way of life before Christ (see also 2 Peter 2:20)

(2) The essentiality of loving God (see also Romans 8:28)

3. According to Joshua 23:13a, if Israel went after *these nations*, what would the Lord no longer do for them?

a. What would *these nations* then become for Israel? Joshua 23:13b

(1) What picture does this paint for you of sin and disobedience?

b. What would be Israel's ultimate fate if they went after *these nations*? Joshua 23:13c

(1) How is this a warning for you?

4. How are you moved to *hold fast to the LORD your God*?

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 23:14–16

1. Joshua, aware of his own mortality, knew that he was soon *going the way of all the earth* (Joshua 23:14a). Yet he made sure to remind the Israelites of some very crucial truths. Use Joshua 23:14 to answer the following:
 - a. What did the Israelites *know*? (verse 14b)
 - b. What had *come to pass* for them? (verse 14c)
 - c. What had ***not*** *failed*? (verse 14d)
- (1) Why was it important for Israel to take these things to heart?
- (2) Observe the use of the word *all* in Joshua's declaration. What does this convey to you?
 - (a) Link this with 2 Corinthians 9:8 and share your thoughts.

2. Joshua reiterated the principles found in Deuteronomy 28 that were part of Israel's covenant relationship with God. Use Joshua 23:15–16 to record and remark on:
 - a. The blessings of obedience (verse 15a)
 - b. The curses of disobedience (verses 15b–16)
3. Note that the word *good* is used four times in Joshua 23:14–16 to describe God's blessings on Israel. In light of such good blessings, why are God's commands reasonable?
 - a. Consider the *good things* God has done for you. How does this motivate you?
4. The New Covenant Jesus established is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 11:23–26. Use these Scriptures to underscore the importance of remembering what Jesus has done.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week, share a thought you have concerning:
 - a. God's faithfulness
 - b. God's promises
 - c. God's commands
 - d. God's warnings
 - e. God's blessings
 - f. Personal responsibility
2. What legacy do you desire to leave when you are old, advanced in age?