

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How to Maintain the Life of Victory

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Joshua 24:11-16

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1816

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Joshua 24 is an address by Joshua to the children of Israel.
  - i) It is his farewell address.
    - (1) He is telling them goodbye.
  - ii) But he wanted those who had come into the land of Canaan to stay there.
    - (1) He didn't want them to be evicted.
    - (2) He didn't want them to forfeit their possessions.
    - (3) So, Joshua gave them some words of advice on how to hold onto that which God had given them.
- b) These stories are more than Bible history; they are devotional literature.
  - i) The Bible tells us that these things happened to them for examples to us.
    - (1) 1 Corinthians 10:11
- c) The land of Canaan (the Promised Land) stands for the victorious Christian life.
  - i) God's plan for us is not only that we have eternal life, but that we also have victorious and abundant life.
    - (1) John 10:10
  - ii) When a Christian is living the abundant life, he has the counterpart to what the children of Israel had when they lived in Canaan.
- d) But Satan is a sore loser.
  - i) The devil, who tried to uproot God's people from the land of Canaan, is the one who will try to dissuade us and evict us from the life of victory that we ought to have in the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - (1) To lose our wealth is sad.
    - (2) To lose our health is worse.
    - (3) But to lose our walk with God, after we have once known Him, is tragic.
- e) What Joshua had to say to the children of Israel fits so clearly with our lives today.
- f) Joshua told the children of Israel what God had done for them.
  - i) Joshua 24:11-13
    - (1) The victory wasn't theirs; it was God's.
    - (2) They were there by God's grace and strength.
    - (3) It was not what they did for God that had brought them there.
      - (a) But it was what God did for them.
- g) Joshua 24:14-16
- h) In today's message, we will look at four things to help us maintain the life of victory.

2) THERE MUST BE CAREFUL REVERENCE (JOSHUA 24:14)

- a) Fear the Lord.
  - i) This is the first thing that Joshua says.
  - ii) We can lose our walk with God by getting casual, careless, and by losing the respect and the fear of the Lord.

- b) Over and over again in the Bible, we are admonished to fear God.
  - i) Psalm 25:14
    - (1) Do you want God to reveal wonderful things to you?
      - (a) Then, fear the Lord.
  - ii) Psalm 31:19
    - (1) God has laid up good things for those who fear Him.
  - iii) Psalm 33:18
    - (1) Would you like for God's caring eye to be upon you?
    - (2) Would you like for God to watch over you, guide you, guard you, and keep you?
      - (a) Then, fear Him.
  - iv) Psalm 115:13
    - (1) Do you want a blessing?
    - (2) He will bless those who fear the Lord.
  - v) Psalm 147:11
    - (1) Do you want to please God?
      - (a) If we please God, then it doesn't matter whom we displease.
      - (b) If we displease God, then it doesn't matter whom we please.
      - (c) We cannot please God without fearing Him.
- c) Some people think that the Christian religion is based upon love and not fear.
  - i) There is not a contradiction between love and fear.
    - (1) Those who fear God the most love Him the best.
    - (2) The fear of God is love on its knees.
- d) This is not superstitious fear.
  - i) There are cathedrals across the world with gargoyles posted around the outside of them.
    - (1) It was thought that if they put bad demons on the front, then maybe it would scare worse demons away.
      - (a) That is superstition.
- e) This is not slavish fear.
  - i) It doesn't mean that when we think of God, we cower or tremble as if God is a tyrant.
    - (1) Don't let the devil get you to think negatively about God.
      - (a) God is good.
  - ii) Most people spend their lives running from God because of slavish fear.
- f) The fear of the Lord is sanctified fear.
  - i) It is reverence and awe.
  - ii) Many times, people talk carelessly and flippantly about the Almighty.
    - (1) When they do, they are taking God's name in vain because they are not speaking God's name with reverence and awe.
  - iii) God is a holy God.
  - iv) We are to fear Him.

- g) When people lose their blessing and are evicted from the land of Canaan, one of the things that caused this is that they became careless about their relationship with God.
    - i) They lost the right kind of fear.
      - (1) A pilot is not afraid to fly, but he has a great respect for the law of gravity.
        - (a) He has a fear that is a legitimate fear.
      - (2) We need to fear the Lord.
        - (a) This is not a negative fear.
        - (b) The difference between a slave and a son:
          - (i) A slave fears his master's lash.
          - (ii) But a son fears his father's displeasure.
            - 1. We shouldn't want to break God's heart.
      - (3) Mark 4:37-38, 40-41
        - (a) Jesus rebuked them for fearing (verse 40); but in the very next verse, they feared him in a wonderful way (verse 41).
          - (i) One kind of fear was condemned because it was faithless.
          - (ii) The other kind of fear was exonerated and commended because it was reverential awe.
    - ii) Never get careless about your Christian life.
    - iii) Never lose the reverence.
      - (1) Have a careful reverence for God.
- 3) THERE MUST BE A COURAGEOUS RESOLVE (JOSHUA 24:14-15)
  - a) No matter what others do, we will serve the Lord.
  - b) In this verse, the word "serve" literally means "to homage" or "to worship."
    - i) It doesn't mean going around doing things for God.
    - ii) It means to worship Him, to love Him, and to bow down before Him with all of your heart.
  - c) What is that worship to be?
    - i) It is to be a sincere worship.
      - (1) Joshua 24:14
        - (a) The word "sincere" in this verse means "without blemish."
          - (i) It was used of animals for sacrifice that were to be whole and complete, lacking nothing.
      - (2) We are to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God.
        - (a) Romans 12:1
      - (3) It is to be a sincere service.
      - (4) We need to continually be giving ourselves to God.
        - (a) Joshua 24:14
          - (i) This is in the present tense.
            - 1. "Now, serve the Lord."

- (5) When we are saved, we give all we know of ourselves to all we know of Jesus.
  - (a) Since then, we learn more about ourselves and more about Jesus.
    - (i) And we keep on doing that.
- ii) It is to be a scriptural worship.
  - (1) Joshua 24:14
  - (2) Sincerity is not a substitute for truth, and truth is not a substitute for sincerity.
    - (a) If we worship the Lord in sincerity without truth, then we will be a fanatic.
    - (b) If we worship the Lord in truth and not sincerity, then we will be legalistic.
    - (c) But if we worship and serve the Lord in sincerity and truth, then we will be a beautiful Christian.
- iii) It is to be a steadfast worship.
  - (1) Joshua 24:15
    - (a) Joshua didn't know what choice they were going to make.
      - (i) They could serve other gods if they wanted to.
      - (ii) But he said something every parent should say and mean.
        - 1. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
      - (iii) Today, we are supposed to get along with everybody and sort of homogenize our beliefs with everybody else.
        - 1. What is needed today is a conviction and a courageous resolve.
    - (b) Joshua was saying that if he had to, he would stand alone.
      - (i) The closer we get to the end of the age, the more we are going to have to stand alone.
        - 1. Noah stood alone.
        - 2. Elijah stood alone before 450 prophets of Baal.
        - 3. You may have to stand alone.
  - (2) We should never divide over incidentals, but we ought to divide over idolatry.
    - (a) Sometimes denominations have to stand alone.
    - (b) Sometimes churches have to stand alone when their denomination won't.
    - (c) Sometimes families have to stand alone and leave churches because the church won't do what is right.
    - (d) Sometimes, even if the family won't stand, an individual has to stand alone.
- d) There has to be a courageous resolve.
  - i) If we have a careless, take-it-or-leave-it type of attitude, then the devil is going to boot us right out of our Canaan.
  - ii) Joshua couldn't control what the others did; he did control what he did.
    - (1) Joshua 24:15

- 4) THERE MUST BE CONTINUAL REPENTANCE (JOSHUA 24:14)
  - a) Put away the gods of Egypt.
    - i) They had been out of Egypt for forty years.
    - ii) There are always the weeds of the old life that want to sprout again.
      - (1) There are hangover sins that are down deep in our hearts.
      - (2) We need to be careful of these things and old gods will come back into our lives.
        - (a) They will come back and demand our service.
  - b) We are going to serve someone or something if we don't serve the true God.
    - i) An idol is anything that we love more, fear more, serve more, or trust more than Almighty God.
  - c) Ancient gods that we serve today:
    - i) There was an ancient god named Mammon.
      - (1) He was a god of wealth.
    - ii) The ancient god named Bacchus.
      - (1) He was a god of pleasure.
      - (2) A lot of people want to serve that god today.
      - (3) He was the god of drunkenness, drugs, debauchery, and pleasure.
    - iii) The ancient god and goddess, Aphrodite and Venus.
      - (1) These were the god and goddess of sexual lust and promiscuity.
    - iv) There was another ancient god named Mars.
      - (1) He was the god of war, hatred, blood lust, and revenge.
    - v) The ancient goddess Sophia.
      - (1) This was the goddess of wisdom.
        - (a) Substituting "Thus saith the mind of man" for "Thus saith the Word of God."
    - vi) There was the god Baal that the Jewish people worshipped.
      - (1) There were four characteristics of Baal worship:
        - (a) The worshipers of Baal were pro-choice.
          - (i) They commonly killed their newborn children.
        - (b) They were environmentalists.
          - (i) They were more concerned about fertility and crops than human beings.
        - (c) They were a part of a promiscuous lifestyle.
          - (i) They worshipped Baal that way.
          - (ii) Homosexuality was at the very core and root of it.
        - (d) They sought to legitimize Baal worship and make it coexist with the worship of Israel's God.
    - vii) Today, the old gods have come back with different names.
  - d) We repent when we get saved, we do far more repenting after we are saved.
    - i) These old gods will rear their heads.
      - (1) And things that we think we are done with and that are in the past are still there.

- ii) Be careful to keep a clean account with God.
    - (1) Do it fully, and do it forcefully.
      - (a) Put away these gods.
        - (i) Joshua 24:14
    - (2) Don't allow one-half of one sin in your life.
    - (3) Don't make peace with any sin.
      - (a) This does not mean sinless perfection.
        - (i) This means to have a holy ambition to be holy.
    - (4) Deal with sin as sin would deal with you.
      - (a) Put it away.
- 5) THERE MUST BE COMPLETE RELIANCE (JOSHUA 24:16-23)
- a) This is complete reliance.
    - i) All of these things that we are supposed to do and ought to do, don't just say that you will do them.
      - (1) But "incline your heart to God."
  - b) People make promises, easy to be uttered and soon to be forgotten, because they make them in the strength of their flesh.
    - i) When Jesus spoke of some people forsaking Him, Simon Peter said that he would go with Jesus to prison and to death.
      - (1) Luke 22:33
      - (2) Simon Peter cursed and denied that he even knew the Lord Jesus.
        - (a) Luke 22:57-60
      - (3) It was a boast of the flesh.
  - c) To maintain our victory, we need to realize that as we have the reverence and resolve, there comes a reliance that says, "God, I can't do it. But You can do it in me, and I'm going to let You."
    - i) Victory is not our responsibility.
      - (1) It is our response to His ability.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) With careful reverence, courageous resolve, continual repentance, and complete reliance, you will not get evicted from Canaan.
    - i) You will walk in victory.
  - b) You can't do it without the Lord.
    - i) Incline your heart to Him.
      - (1) Joshua 24:23
  - c) The first step to having a life of victory is to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.
  - d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  - e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
    - i) Romans 3:23

- ii) Romans 10:9-10
- iii) Romans 10:13
- iv) Acts 16:31
- v) John 3:16