
Joshua: God's People in God's Land

“The King Who Is Worthy and the People Whom He Serves”

Joshua 24:1-25

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“No room remains empty for long. If God is driven out, the gods come trooping in.”

Lesslie Newbigin

“Idols are non-gods and as such are much more congenial to us than God, for we not only have the pleasure of making them, using our wonderful imaginations and skills in creative ways, but also of controlling them. They are gods with all the God taken out so that we can continue to be our own gods.”

Eugene Peterson

“Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love . . . Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

Jonah 2:8-9

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- What is God showing you about Himself and yourself in this passage?
- What do you make of Peterson's definition of idols in the quotation above?
 - What is the attraction of idols/gods, according to his definition? How do you experience that yourself or in the culture at large?
 - Why are idols “more congenial to us than God”? Does it remain that way for long? When do idols begin demanding rather than supplying, in your experience?
- The verses from Jonah pit the vanity of idols against the hope of steadfast love and salvation from the LORD.
 - Why are these two at odds with each other?
 - Why do folks persist with superstition and idolatry when the hope of steadfast love hangs in the balance?
- How do the grace of God and his steadfast love show up in this chapter?
 - Why does the narrative of salvation history in verses 1-13 trace all the way back to Terah instead of to Abraham?
 - Why were Joshua's inspiring example (as for me and my house . . .) and convicting warnings not enough for the people of God?
 - How does Joshua anticipate and underscore the need for a Greater Joshua?
- Chapter 24 builds to a point of decision: the True God or false idols.
 - Is it always that clear to you in ordinary life?
 - How can we bring this clarity into our battles with sin and worship?