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|  | **LightHouse Ranch****Bible Study**  |

***Cleave unto Him - Joshua 23-24***

 **I. After God gave rest from all their enemies**

 **II. Joshua gathers the all the tribes to Shechem**

**III. Jacob’s and Joseph’s statement of faith**

**IV. The LORD still fights battles today if….**

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**Genesis 2:15-24**

**Cleave Unto Him –** Genesis 2:15-24

Joshua knows he is going to die soon, and gives two farewell messages – In chapter 23, to the elders and heads of the tribes, probably in Shiloh; and in chapter 24, to Israel as a whole in Shechem. In these two teachings, Joshua explains what is ahead for the tribes after God has given them “general rest”. There are still cells of the enemy that have to be conquered. The LORD instructs that He will fight the battles again against the remnant of these tribes – so what is the responsibilities of Israel? Rather than merely preparing totally for battle and putting on the armour; they are to be courageous to do all that is in God’s Word, to love God, cleave unto Him, and to not serve other gods.

It is the same today. Just as we are taught in the book of Ephesians to put off the old man and put on the new, and cleave to God before putting on the whole armor of God in chapter 6. Ephesians 5 quotes Adam about cleaving to his bride at the presentation of the bride and then teaches: “This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church”

**I. After God gave rest from all their enemies, Joshua was old**

**Joshua 23:1** And it came to pass a long time after that the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old *and* stricken in age.

**Joshua called for the heads and elders of Israel – All that the LORD hath done**
**Joshua 23:2** And Joshua called for all Israel, *and* for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old *and* stricken in age:
**Joshua 23:3** And ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the LORD your God *is* he that hath fought for you.

**The rest God had given was a “general” rest – each tribe had battles to perform for their inheritance**
**Joshua 23:4** Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward.
**Joshua 23:5** And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.

**Be very courageous – How? Keep all that is written in the book!**
**Joshua 23:6** Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom *to* the right hand or *to* the left;

**Don’t worship Canaan’s gods or even mention the god’s name**
**Joshua 23:7** That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear *by them*, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

**But cleave unto the LORD your God -**
**Joshua 23:8** But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.

**What is the meaning of “to cleave” and its association with the word “rest”**

* As God established marriage: Genesis2:24
* As Moses admonished the survivors of Peor (Balaam) – Deuteronomy 4:1-6
* As Moses instructs Israel after standing in the gap for them – Deuteronomy 10:12-22
* As Moses commands Israel for when they are given rest in the land – Deuteronomy 11:16-32
* As God instructs about false teachers & prophets – Deuteronomy 13:1-9; II Corinthians 11:1-15
* As Joshua instructed the 2½ tribes after Gilead was conquered – Joshua 22:1-6
* As the LORD is comparing a good king in Judah to a bad king in Israel - II Kings 18:1-12
* As Peter sees a vision at Joppa and Barnabus’ testimony - Acts 11:11-25

**No man has been able to stand before you unto this day - The LORD has fought thy battles “if”**

**Joshua 23:9** For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but *as for* you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.
**Joshua 23:10** One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he *it is* that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

**But if you cleave unto the remnant of these nations, the LORD will not fight your battles**
**Joshua 23:11** Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

**But if you cleave unto the “remnant of these nations” – Why?**
**Joshua 23:12** Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, *even* these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:
**Joshua 23:13** Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out *any of* these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

**God has not failed once unto you**
**Joshua 23:14** And, behold, this day I *am* going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, *and* not one thing hath failed thereof.
**Joshua 23:15** Therefore it shall come to pass, *that* as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.
**Joshua 23:16** When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

**II. Joshua gathers the all the tribes to Shechem**

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**Jacob could speak to the people of Israel as a whole in Shechem**

**Joshua 24:1** And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

**The Message begins with Abraham**
**Joshua 24:2** And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.
**Joshua 24:3** And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

**Continues on to Isaac, Jacob, Esau and salvation out of Egypt**
**Joshua 24:4** And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.
**Joshua 24:5** I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out.

**Continuing across the Red Sea**
**Joshua 24:6** And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea.
**Joshua 24:7** And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.

**And into the land of the Amorites**
**Joshua 24:8** And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.

**Balak, king of Moab warred against Isreal**
**Joshua 24:9** Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you:
**Joshua 24:10** But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand.

**The LORD delivered the Canaanites into your hand**

**Joshua 24:11** And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I delivered them into your hand.

**And I sent a hornet before you – As Moses in** Deuteronomy 7
**Joshua 24:12** And I sent the hornet before you, which drave them out from before you, *even* the two kings of the Amorites; *but* not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

**He has given you a land for which you did not labour**
**Joshua 24:13** And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

**Therefore, Fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and Truth**
**Joshua 24:14** Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

**Choose you this day**
**Joshua 24:15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

**The people answered – Remember who the audience is?**
**Joshua 24:16** And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;
**Joshua 24:17** For the LORD our God, he *it is* that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:
**Joshua 24:18** And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: *therefore* will we also serve the LORD; for he *is* our God.

**Ye cannot serve the LORD for He is a holy God and jealous over His own**
**Joshua 24:19** And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he *is* an holy God; he *is* a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.
**Joshua 24:20** If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

**Nay; but we will serve the LORD**
**Joshua 24:21** And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

**We are witnesses**
**Joshua 24:22** And Joshua said unto the people, Ye *are* witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, *We are* witnesses.

***Put away the strange gods*****Joshua 24:23** Now therefore put away, *said he*, the strange gods which *are* among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.

**The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.**
**Joshua 24:24** And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.
**Joshua 24:25** So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.
**Joshua 24:26** And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that *was* by the sanctuary of the LORD.
**Joshua 24:27** And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

**Joshua 24:28** So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

**Joshua died**
**Joshua 24:29** And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* an hundred and ten years old.
**Joshua 24:30** And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-serah, which *is* in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash.

**Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua**
**Joshua 24:31** And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

**III. Jacob’s and Joseph’s statement of faith fulfilled**
**Joshua 24:32** And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.
**Joshua 24:33** And Eleazar the son of Aaron died; and they buried him in a hill *that pertained to* Phinehas his son, which was given him in mount Ephraim.

**Statements of Faith in God’s Word**

* Jacob bought the field after his covenant with Esau - **Genesis** 33:19-20
* Jacob’s blessing of Joseph – **Genesis** 48:9-22; Hebrews 11:8-22
* Joseph took an oath of Israel - **Genesis** 50:23-26
* Moses takes Joseph’s bones with him at the deliverance from Egypt - **Exodus** 13:17-20
* And at Stephen’s final sermon - **Acts** 7:13-16

**IV. The LORD still fights battles today if**

After confronting the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and chapter 6 of Luke naming all Christ’s disciples, similarly as did Joshua, Jesus taught the crowd how to stand in the battles of this world. Notice that like Moses and Jacob, (of course God was speaking through both), Jesus prepares His people to stand against all adversity in this age with doctrine and a parable:

**Jesus confronts the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and faithfulness of Christ**

**Luke 6:1** And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing *them* in *their* hands.
**Luke 6:2** And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?
**Luke 6:3** And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him;
**Luke 6:4** How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?
**Luke 6:5** And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.
**Luke 6:6** And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.
**Luke 6:7** And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.
**Luke 6:8** But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.
**Luke 6:9** Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy *it*?
**Luke 6:10** And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

**The religious leaders want to get rid of Jesus**
**Luke 6:11** And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.
**Luke 6:12** And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

**Jesus calls His disciples**
**Luke 6:13** And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;
**Luke 6:14** Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,
**Luke 6:15** Matthew and Thomas, James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,
**Luke 6:16** And Judas *the brother* of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

**Luke 6:17** And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;
**Luke 6:18** And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.
**Luke 6:19** And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed *them* all.

**Jesus begins to teach the crowd – Not faith only but what they need to do**

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| The Apostle preaches about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Repentance, Judea, Jerusalem. |

**Luke 6:20** And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed *be ye* poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.
**Luke 6:21** Blessed *are ye* that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed *are ye* that weep now: for ye shall laugh.
**Luke 6:22** Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you *from their company*, and shall reproach *you*, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.
**Luke 6:23** Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.
**Luke 6:24** But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.
**Luke 6:25** Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.
**Luke 6:26** Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.
**Luke 6:27** But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,
**Luke 6:28** Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.
**Luke 6:29** And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also.
**Luke 6:30** Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again.
**Luke 6:31** And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.
**Luke 6:32** For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.
**Luke 6:33** And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.
**Luke 6:34** And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
**Luke 6:35** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil.
**Luke 6:36** Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.
**Luke 6:37** Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
**Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
**Luke 6:39** And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?
**Luke 6:40** The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.
**Luke 6:41** And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?
**Luke 6:42** Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

**The good man contrasted with the evil man**
**Luke 6:43** For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
**Luke 6:44** For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.
**Luke 6:45** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.
**Luke 6:46** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

**What is a man that hears God’s Word and does God’s Word like?**
**Luke 6:47** Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:
**Luke 6:48** He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.
**Luke 6:49** But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

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