

FAMILY MATTERS #1 - HEART OF THE FAMILY

JOSHUA 24:14-18

Nations, Churches, and Families all have "personalities." Some are kind, loud, peaceful, loving, hateful, or mean at heart.

I. JOSHUA'S DECLARATION COMES FROM THE HEART - JOSHUA 24:15

- A. Disagreement - "And if it seem evil unto you..."
 - 1. Joshua was on his deathbed (vs.29)
 - 2. God had already spoken (EXO. 20:3)
- B. Decision - "...choose you this day..."
 - 1. The choice is plain - only TWO choices
 - 2. The choice is urgent - MUST be made TODAY
- C. Distinction - "...but as for me and my house..."
 - 1. Joshua will not go with the crowd (2 COR. 6:17)
 - 2. Joshua is willing to stand alone (TITUS 2:14)
- D. Determination - "...we will..."
 - 1. Many in our world refuse to decide! (JAMES 5:12)
 - 2. STAND for something / Don't faint (1 COR. 16:13)
 - 3. Leaders make decisions (no decision = decision)
- E. Direction - "...serve the Lord."

II. GOD CARES ABOUT THE HEART - LUKE 1:17

- A. God enumerated THREE duties for John the Baptist
 - 1. We think about the third, sometimes the second
 - 2. But what did God say FIRST? Hearts of fathers.
 - 3. What did John the Baptist preach? REPENT YE!
 - 4. Repentance is heart-based 2 COR. 7:10
- B. God ponders / sifts / DISCERNS the innermost man
 - 1. Bible divides HEB. 4:12 / (PROV. 21:2)
 - 2. Man looks to the outward, God upon the heart

III. FAMILY TROUBLES COME FROM THE HEART

- A. No matter the issue - it is an issue of the HEART
 - 1. Lies and Falseness - MATT. 15:18 (Distant Heart)
 - 2. Adulteries - MATT. 15:19 (Evilness of Heart)
 - 3. Divorce - MATT. 19:8 (Hardness of Heart)
- B. Solution? Go straight to the HEART! PROV. 23:26
 - 1. The heart cannot be taken, must be given
 - 2. Must live as an open example (OBSERVE my ways)
 - 3. A godly family is the highest prize (MATT. 6:21)
- C. No godly family without Salvation first LUKE 19:1-10
 - 1. Love God with WHOLE heart (MATT. 22:37)
 - 2. A godly family - forgiveness always (EPH. 4:32)

CONCLUSION: The heart a family has results from a decision that is made and reinforced by all those within it. Changing the heart of a family requires Salvation, Forgiveness, Humbleness and DECISIVE LEADERSHIP.

EXO. 20:3 - "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

2 COR. 6:17 - "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

TITUS 2:14 - "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

JAMES 5:12 - "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation."

1 COR. 16:13 - "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

PROV. 21:2 - "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."

MATT. 6:21 - "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

MATT. 22:37 - "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

EPH. 4:32 - "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."