

Let us begin our lecture on Joshua 20. / Today's words are from chapters 23 and 24. / Joshua finished what he was called to do, and he was at the last minute of his life.

/He gave his last words, telling the people to worship and obey Him in the land God promised. / In 23:1-5, Joshua told them to not forget His grace.

*/Please read verse 1. / A long time afterward, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years,*

/God destroyed all the enemies and distributed the lands of Canaan/ to the Israelites. / They were enjoying comforts. / Now Joshua was old and well advanced in his years.

/Thus, he summoned all the leaders of Israel and taught them. / He was faithful to God until the end. / He was faithful and responsible to the tasks entrusted to him.

/He led the people after Moses died. / He obeyed God's words and conquered the Canaan land. / He was obedient till he finished all his duties.

/People these days easily change, / spending little effort in the things God entrusted them. / But Joshua took the job faithfully until the last minute of his life.

/He advised the Israelites / to remember the things God had done. / That is, he told them not to forget His grace. He charged them to serve Him.

*/Verses 2-3. / Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and officers, and said to them, "I am now old and well advanced in years. And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you.*

/God helped them cross the wilderness / and the Jordan River. / He also shattered down the Jericho City / and gave victory against the Canaanites. / Joshua is charging them to remember that grace, to serve Him well.

/It is so easy for us to forget His grace in our daily lives. / We have come to this point only because of His grace. / Joshua was near his death, / but he still had a piece of land to conquer in Canaan.

/But God told through Joshua, / "The land of Canaan is the land God promised." / He is going to continue to lead you, as He did in the past." / "Trust that you are going to take all of the land / if you live according to the words of God"

*/Verse 5. / The LORD your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, just as the LORD your God promised you.*

/God gave the enemies into the hands of Israelites. / And if they continue to live in faith and serve God, the remaining lands will be given to them.

/Verse 5 / says, "You shall possess their land," Joshua said it with conviction. / People of faith ought to trust the promise of God. / He makes sure His promise is kept no matter what.

/How can they take the remaining land? / The solution is mentioned in verses 6-11. / What is it?

*/Verse 6. / Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left,*

/First, they should keep and obey all His words. / We ought to love His words / and keep it, / without turning right or left from it.

/We must not add or subtract from His words. / He will help us as we walk in His words. / God has told Joshua the same thing in chapter 1 of Book of Joshua.

/The LORD said that if he keeps all of what is written in the Book of Moses, / he will see prosperity anywhere he goes. / And he is now relating that words to the people. / What is the key to success today?

/Obeying His words. / God helps us when we live and walk according to His words, not turning left or right. / Second, as written in verse 7, they should not serve idols.

/We should not call the name of other gods, / swear, / serve, / bow down to it. / Many idols were present in Canaan during that time.

/But idols are hand-made. They are not God. / Some people today make their idols and serve them. / But the only true One in heaven and earth is God.

/He is the only God, / the Master of our life, / and the Sovereign Being. / He is the source of every blessing. / Thus, no one who wishes to receive blessing from God should serve other idols.

/We can be blessed when we serve Him. / Some people worship idols / in their heart. / What are those?

/Loving something more than God is an idol. / Trusting something more than God is an idol. / It has more power in us than God. / We should love God above everything else, / and trust / and receive guidance from God only.

/Joshua also told them, / "Love and cling to the LORD your God" if they want to conquer the remaining lands. / Please read verse 8.

*/Verse 8 . / but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day.*

/He said, "You shall cling to the LORD your God." / It is important whom we will get close with. / Those who cling to idols are bound to follow them. / We can follow Him when we cling to Him.

/How can we cling to Him? / We have to live in prayer, / and cherish and learn as well as read His words and obey it.

/We also need to live a church-centered life to become closer to God. / Those who love God are bound to get close to Him. / If they cling to God and love Him, / they can drive out the enemies in the remaining land.

/They will have no one who can defeat them. / One will be able to drive out a thousand with God at his side. / That's how they can take the land God promised.

/Joshua taught them the way to success. / However, if they turn back from their faith, / they will meet failure. / So in verses 12-16, / we can read about how they will fail if they not live faithfully.

*/Verse 12. / For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you,*

*/"If you turn back..." it is written. / Once they turn back and cling to the remaining nations in the land, / they will begin to wed other godless people / and worship idols.*

/They will eventually meet destruction at their path because of idolatry. / Thus, if they turn back from their faith and cling to the Canaanites, / they will begin to serve idols under the foreign influence. / The Canaanites will be their snare / and thorns.

/Continued practice of idolatry is going to bring destruction in the Promised Land. / We should not turn back from our faith. / We need to get close to God every day, / and our faith should grow daily. / We need to get intimate with God.

/What awaits in our disobedience to His words / is destruction. / Despite Joshua's clear teaching to His words, / if the Israelites disobey His words, / they will perish, / even if they are in the Promise Land.

*/Verse 16. / if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you."*

/Joshua warned them. If they disobey His words and serve other gods, / He will be wrathful. / They will not only see His wrath, / but also destruction in the beautiful land God gave them.

/He is God of righteousness. / If we choose good, He will repay us according to our good. / If we choose evil, He will judge our evil. / God rewards the good deeds, / while He judges the evil deeds.

/In verses 14-15, Joshua says that God repays all their good and evil. / If they continue to do good in His words, / they will receive blessings, just as God promised.

/But if they turn away from His words, / God will judge them. / Even today we have path of failure and success before us. / Every promise of His will come true.

/We will receive blessing from God if we do the things according to His will. / But if we transgress His words, He will judge us. / Just as Joshua's last words, / we got to cling to God / and serve Him, and He will bless us.

/Now chapter 24 is about Joshua's last words. / Joshua taught His words over and over again. / People easily forget what they have learned no matter how many times they have learned it. / This is why we need repetitive teachings in our

church as well.

/We got to teach what we have taught again and again, / in order for all of us to remember. / It is easy for us to forget about His grace these days.

/So the church has to repeat teaching the same thing, so it will stick in our heart. / In verses 1-3, Joshua told them to remember God who chose Abraham.

*/Please read verse 1. / Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.*

/Joshua gathered all of the Israelites to Shechem. / This was the place where Abraham first built an altar. / From where did God call Abraham? / He called him from the place where his father was serving other gods.

*/Verse 2. / And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.*

/Terah, the father of Abraham, worshipped other gods in Ur of Chaldeans. / God called him out from the land of idolatry. / Why?

/He called him to prosper his name / and give him the land of Canaan, the land God promised to give. / We can read about the purpose of calling him in verse 3. / He called him from beyond the River, / then led him to the land of Canaan. / God then gave him Isaac as His gift.

/Thus, God made a promise and sent Jesus, so that many people will believe in Him. / It is only His grace that Abraham was called. / In the same way, God called us today to believe in Jesus.

/He chose us / and called us. / He gave us faith / and let us trust in Jesus, making us as His children. / How wonderful it is that God called us.

/We must never forget His grace. / Children obey their parents more, if they remember the goodness of their parents. / The same goes for the children of God. / Verses 4-8 say that the Israelites are to remember the grace of God who called them from Egypt.

*/Verse 4. / And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.*

/Jacob went down to Egypt with his 70 family members. / He did so because God led him. / And for 400 years, the Israelites prospered very much.

/God then appointed a leader and brought them out from Egypt.

/In verses 5-7, /we can read that God sent Moses and Aaron. / Moses asked Pharaoh to let his people go. / But Pharaoh became hard-hearted so did not listen to the words of Moses. / Then God rained down the Ten Plagues through Moses.

/God freed the Israelites from the hands of Pharaoh. / He delivered them out from Egypt / and let them cross the Red Sea with faith. / Then He destroyed all the Egyptians who were pursuing them in the sea.

*/Verse 6. / “Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.*

/He brought them out from Egypt and let them cross the Red Sea./ Also, as written in verse 7, God led them throughout their journey in the wilderness for 40 years. / They witnessed many miracles in the wilderness.

/God led them with a pillar of cloud during the day, / and He led them by a pillar of fire at night. / He rained manna from the sky, with His miraculous power. / They witnessed every work of God in the wilderness.

/Not only that, as written in verse 8, / He led them to enter in the land of Amorites, at the east side of the Jordan River. / God gave the land to them after all their enemies were destroyed.

/Joshua is reminding them not to forget such a grace. / God was the one who brought them out from Egypt. / He was the one who let them cross the Red Sea / and who guided them for 40 years in the wilderness.

/He was the one who gave the Promised Land to them. / What kind of grace are we receiving today? / Believing in Jesus. / We are living a life that is like a wilderness, / and God has protected us all along.

/God has given all the grace and blessings we need in our life. /The more amazing grace is / receiving forgiveness of our sins through faith in Jesus / and becoming His child.

/Moreover, just as God allowed the Israelites the land of Canaan, / He has given us the Kingdom of God. This is His amazing grace. / Let us not forget His grace. Let us serve Him sincerely.

/As written in verses 9-10, Joshua reminded them to remember the time when God delivered them from the false prophet. / Who was the false prophet?

*/Verse 9. / Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you,*

/Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, / called Balaam the son of Beor for a favor. / He was a powerful man. / He asked Balaam to curse the Israelites, but God turned the curse into blessing.

/How much of a blessing they have received when God saved them from the false prophet! / Many heretics are in the world today.

/God did not let us fall into the hands of heresy; / instead He led us / and guided us to walk in the right faith. / In verses 11-13, / Joshua reminds them that God was the one who gave the land of Canaan to them.

*/Verse 11. / And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand.*

/God gave the land to the Israelites. / They experienced miracle in the Jordan River. / In the land they were heading, many nations were dwelling there. / They

were far stronger than the Israelites.

/But God drove them out / and gave the land to His people. / He then granted them many places to dwell and eat.

/He gave not only the land, / but also the towns they did not build. / He also gave them olives and grapes they did not plant. / All these abundance / were given by God.

/Can you imagine the time they need to spend to build a town? / God prepared all the places to live since the Israelites obeyed Him. / Look closely at the towns and houses God gave them.

*/Verse 13. / I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'*

/God has given them a land on which they did not labor / and cities that they did not build. / He also gave them fruits of vineyards and olive orchards they did not plant. / I cannot emphasize enough how great His grace is.

/God prepared His Kingdom and gave it to us. / It is not built by our hands. / He made it and saved us, for us to live there forever.

/Thus, let us not forget the amazing grace of God. / What should we do? / Verses 14-18 say, / "Serve Him only."

*/Verse 14. / "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.*

/Their object of worship is not a god of Canaanites / or Egyptians. / They should get rid of all these foreign gods / and serve Him. / They should serve Him with all their heart / and sincerity.

/The land is prone to cause them turn back from their faith. / Once they begin to mingle with the Canaanites, / their influence can easily sway them from their faith.

/This is why Joshua exhorted them to get rid of idols / and serve God only. /But if serving the Lord seems evil in their eyes, he said, / choose this day whom you will serve.

*/Verse 15. / And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

/"If it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, / choose this day whom you will serve, / whether the god of Canaan / or Egypt," Joshua said. / What was Joshua's decision? / "But as for me and my house, / we will serve the LORD."

/He was resolute before the people. / Serving God is His amazing grace and blessing. / As he said those words, / the people followed him.

/It is written in verse 16, / "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to

serve other gods." / They knew His grace too. / What grace did they know?

/It is written in verse 17. / God brought them out from Egypt. / He showed them many miracles in Egypt, / and He protected them until they came to that point. / They also remembered how God drove their enemies out from the land.

*/Verse 18. / And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."*

/With these in mind, / they echoed Joshua. / The same goes for us today. Whenever we learn His words, / we need to make a choice, / whether we will serve idols or God.

/Those who wanted to be blessed would have made their mind to serve God. / Otherwise, the only end for worshipping idol is destruction. / Joshua then in verses 19-28 / warns them again.

/Joshua emphasized that they worship God only. / He emphasized the same thing many times, / but he repeated. / He kept on emphasizing that they serve God only.

/In verses 19-20 / why should they serve God only? / This is Joshua's warning.

*/Verse 19. / But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins."*

/He told them, / "You are not able to serve the LORD. / "He will not forgive your transgressions when you serve idol. / He is a holy / and jealous God."

/Thus, He will not forgive your transgressions. / "He is a jealous God." / Since He loves us so much, / He is not going to tolerate if we worship an idol.

/Let us compare this to a married couple. / The husband loves his wife to a great deal. / Would he tolerate his wife, / if she thinks about another man? / He cannot let his wife meet other man.

/Our God is a God of love. / He loves us very much, / and so when we begin to serve another god, / He is not going to let us. / He is not going to forgive our transgressions and sins.

/In verse 20, / it is written, "If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, / then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, / after having done you good."

/God has given them many blessings, / but the verse above is a warning of God's judgement to those who serve other idols. / How did the people respond to Joshua's words?

*/Verse 21-22. / And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord." Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses."*

/After they heard Joshua's warning, / they replied (verse 21), "We will serve the Lord."

*/Verse 23. / He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel."*

/He then replied, "Then put away the foreign gods among you, / and incline your heart to the LORD." / We got to throw away all the idols in our heart / and worship Him with all our heart / and sincerity.

/Verses 26-27/ talk about the Book of Law of God. / Joshua recorded His words and let them continue in reading and learning His words. / Then he took a large stone as a witness, so they will not turn away from His words. / We should engrave His words in our heart.

*/Verse 31. / Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel.*

/Israel served the LORD / all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua. / But later in Judges, / we see that as these leaders passed away, / many people began to turn away from God.

/However, we should be faithful to our everlasting God till the end, / whether a leader is present or not.

/In verses 32-33, / they buried Joseph's bones in Shechem. / They also buried Eleazar, the son of Aaron. / Joseph's bones were buried in Canaan / just as God promised.

/Priest Eleazar died as well. / Even though they died, His words remain forever. / So does our obedience here in this earth. /Huge are rewards in Heaven.

/Let us read His words / and faithfully serve Him / untill the end. / Then we will be blessed here in this world / and participate in His great glory.

/With this I now end all the lectures on Joshua 20. / Thank you very much.