



**Text: Joshua 24: 11-15, 21-28**

## The Plain Truth

Our biggest \_\_\_\_\_ as followers of Jesus is between what we know we should \_\_\_\_\_ and what we are \_\_\_\_\_.

1) Joshua teaches that faithfulness is putting God \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) When we draw our last breath wouldn't it be great to have "\_\_\_\_\_ "?

2) Faithfulness is not just deeper \_\_\_\_\_ but deeper \_\_\_\_\_!

3) Putting God first gives you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you for the \_\_\_\_\_.

**September 10 & 11, 2016**



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# JOSHUA CELEBRATION

Personal Study • Week of September 11

Joshua, an old man, calls together the leaders of Israel and reminds them of the LORD's faithfulness. As they stand in the Promised Land—a land God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob years before they were born—Joshua pleads: "Be very careful to follow everything Moses wrote in the Book of Instruction. Do not deviate from it, turning either to the right or to the left. Make sure you do not associate with the other people still remaining in the land. Do not even mention the names of their gods...rather, cling tightly to the LORD your God as you have done until now" (Joshua 23:6-8). Much was at stake for Israel. It was time to personally commit.

## Read Joshua 24:11-15, 21-28

Faithfulness is putting God first in everything. "So fear the LORD and serve Him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone" (v14). Believe it or not, some of the pagan influence of the Mesopotamian gods that vexed Abram in the land of the Chaldeans still lingered on. In addition, the Israelites had "bought into" some of the practices of the Egyptian gods while living in Egypt 400 years. Joshua says it's time to part with this garbage!

1. Idol worship may be intriguing at first, but in time, it only brings us down. In fact, idolatry (worshiping anything or anyone other than the living God) leads to death. In your experience, how has idol worship sucked life from you?

The Lord Jesus died for us (and rose again!) so that we may have life and live with Him forever. Read **John 6:58**. For you, how has worshiping the living God in Christ changed you and infused your day-to-day existence with life?

Faithfulness is not just deeper teaching but deeper living. Serving the Lord means loving and serving others in His name. Jesus said, "When you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:40).

2. If you have volunteered to serve at CC, share with your Life Group how serving others in Christ's name has been especially meaningful to you?

Commitment will cost us something, but it's worth it to see life-change in others around you. There will never be a perfect time to serve. We all have distractions that often get in the way. Yet, Christ calls us to lay down our lives (see Mark 8:35). Commitment is deciding daily, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

3. Putting God first actually gives us purpose and at the same time, strengthens us for the storms of life. How have you seen this to be true in your life?

Close by reading **Joshua 21:43-45**. Take time to recall God's faithfulness in your own life. Worship Him. Praise Him. Ask the Lord to keep you faithful to His call.

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