

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map  
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Joshua 24:1,2a,14-18  
August 29, 2021

### If being subordinate to the LORD seems bad, think again!

- *<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

- ◆ Christian, man or woman, if you are stunned by this Scripture - Why?
- ◆ Is the offense: *submit ...as you do to the Lord. ...as the church submits to Christ...?*
- ◆ Jesus is our brother, but he's also our Lord, Master, Shepherd, King.
  - We are sheep, subjects, servants, slaves - subordinate, under this authority
  - Our lording sinful hearts hates - loathes being subordinate to anyone! Christian...

### If being subordinate to the LORD seems bad, think again!

- Wise old Joshua knows the sinful heart's resentment against God's exclusive claim: *You shall have no other gods beside me.* Ex 20:3 God's insistence - exclusive loyalty
- Joshua knew the lifestyle of pagan neighbors would erode their loyalty to Yahweh.
- ❖ Joshua trains God's people to keep on reflecting on the facts
  - Take time to see the long view: what Yahweh did - promised and fulfilled
    - ◆ The verses left out of our Lesson are critical for our training.
    - ◆ The call of Abraham, his surprise offspring, rescue from Egypt, Promised Land
  - They were stunned (Israel and the Canaanites) by his deed - powerful & decisive
  - His **protection, provision, privilege** for his **people** as **promised**
    - ◆ Fulfilled for his people, even when they didn't submit and act like his people
    - ◆ Yahweh's goal is to help his people grow and become his faithful people.
  - His faithfulness lead to Jesus' incarnation, ministry, sacrifice, & resurrection
  - A history of faithfulness documented in Acts and all the history of Christ's church
  - Review the well established **factual** records. It is clear:
    - ◆ The LORD God is the one and only true and living God, the Most High Creator.
    - ◆ No other god competes. They can't stop him. They are nothing, or weak demons
    - ◆ He is faithful and reliable, even if it takes 30, 70, 400, or 4,000 years.
    - ◆ He is the God who delights to care for his people - wanting the best for them
  - Joshua review lead to his critical point:
    - ◆ <sup>14</sup> *"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.*
    - ◆ <sup>15</sup> *But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*
    - ◆ The people were horrified at the suggestion. <sup>16</sup> ... *"Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God."*

- ❖ Such a review calls for and inspires a faithful reverence and service to our God.
  - *...fear (revere/honor/allegiance) the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully*
    - ◆ treat him as your God - the source & center of your life - can't live without him
    - ◆ subordinate: under his care and at his service - gladly
  - Why do people who know Yahweh's wondrous deeds see no need for such allegiance?
    - ◆ Good Friday & Easter - doesn't change worship habits or involvement is serving him
    - ◆ Is it merely as tradition? - a nice story? - they don't know why Jesus did this?
  - Everything God promised and performed - to reclaim us to call him *my Lord God*.
    - ◆ Sin appoints me as the decider in my life, the master of my life, the lord in my heart
      - That removes me from being under the care & protection of the King - God
      - My rebellion against the King blocks his blessings and his love.
      - Rebellion leads me to walk in danger, interfering with his protection.
    - ◆ When God is not in charge of my thinking, truth, view of life, attitudes, affections, rot and ruin reign in place of his liberating freedom found subordinate to him, vs. sin.
      - Admit it. Does the bad attitude you justify really bring you joy & peace. No!
      - Let Jesus and his word come in, clean house, and reign with peace and love.
      - Revere the Lord - means always deferring to his word, wisdom, and way.
  - *...no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.* 1 Corinthians 12:3
    - ◆ The Spirit make Jesus your King in your Baptism. He Word strengthens his reign.
    - ◆ Joshua teaches believers to make time to affirm this choice - commitment
    - ◆ That's why we confess the Creeds in worship. Review the evidence. Revere him.
      - Be clear what you are saying when you confess: *I/We believe...*
      - **Not:** *I believe in God = I share the opinion that God is real.*
        - Really?! And it doesn't terrify you that you don't know him or serve him?
      - We confess: I know the Triune God is real by what he did for me and to claim me.
        - I join the Church of all ages in gladly submitting myself to his Lordship
        - By this Creed I confirm and glory him as the one and only Living God, my God.
        - His is my Savior, my Father, my source of life, my reason for living forever.
      - Faithful and wholehearted service leave no room to *respect* fate, karma, the stars, good luck charms or practices to protect me or bring me blessing. Only God does!
        - These are the idols of our day. Cleanse our habits, speech, and hope from them.
  - I wish I could gather every person I've instructed, confirmed, shepherded, or counseled to bring to mind every awesome deed of our God - stunning promises kept - all to bring us under his reign - to be subordinate to him to bless and save us from ourselves

### **If being subordinate to the LORD seems bad, think again!**

- ◆ Have you found a god who can match the LORD? Can you do that for yourself?
- ◆ If you find it offensive to submit to Yahweh, our Lord Jesus, who will care for you?
  - Who will you respect? Who will you trust to give eternal life? Who will you serve?
- ◆ As for me and my house, with the help of God, we will serve Yahweh alone.
- ◆ Will you join us in gladly being subordinate to the Live God of Grace?