



Touching Lives
with James Merritt



SERMON SINGLES

My House, God's House

Joshua 24:14-15

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

Today's key passage of Scripture contains a very famous verse. It says, *"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"* (Joshua 24:15). Can you imagine what could happen in this country if every family made that decision? Do you think the crime rate would go down? Do you think our jails would be emptier? Do you think our marriages might be stronger? Do you think schools would be safer? Joshua shares with his people that he is going to lead his family to do three things with all his might and power. I would encourage every family and every household head to give this same direction, make this same decision, and have this same determination for your family.

KEY POINTS

1. Lead Your Family To Fear The One God

It doesn't matter how much your children know if they don't know God. Fearing God is the basic foundation of all of life, and you've got to model that fear before your children. They need to know that you talk to God about them, and they need to hear you talk to them about God. The way you show them that is by making sure your house and God's house are interconnected. You let your children know by your participation, your engagement, and your involvement that church is not just one piece of a puzzle. In reality, it is a priority of God's plan for your life.

2. Lead Your Family To Forsake Other Gods

Everybody is going to serve some god, and everybody is going to believe in some religion - it may be the god of self, the god of ego, the god of success, the god of sex, the god of money, or the god of pleasure. It is a religion where your business is the church, and you are the high priest. Everybody serves one or the other. So as leaders of our families, we need to not only teach our children how to forsake other gods, but we need to model what it looks like to forsake all other gods for the sake of the Lord God Almighty.

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3. Lead Your Family To Follow The Only God

So what god are you and your family going to serve? You cannot avoid making this choice. You can claim to be agnostic, open-minded, indifferent, and say you really haven't made a choice, but you really have. After all, making decisions is a funny thing, because not to make a decision is to make a decision. You either choose to worship and follow the only God or you choose not to.

Let me warn you. If you choose to follow the Lord, you will be in the minority in your community, in your city, in your state, in your nation, and in the world. Do you know what Joshua was saying in today's key verses? He was saying in effect, "If I have to stand alone, if it is just me and my household and nobody else, we are going to serve the Lord." I believe more and more that many of us are going to have to be more willing to stand alone – those of us who are true followers of Jesus, who believe in the word of God, who believe that what is right is right even if everyone is against it and what is wrong is wrong even if everyone is for it. Therefore, we need to prepare our children that they may have to stand alone as well.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What steps are you currently taking to lead your household to follow the Lord?
2. Is there anything about the way you're leading your family that needs to change so you can align yourselves better with the Word and will of God?
3. What evidence do you see in your children's lives that they are choosing to follow the Lord?
