

9/12/21

att 31

FB 7

**Sermon – Whom do you serve?**

**Scripture – Joshua 24:11-28, Mathew 24:7-13, Mark 13:8-13, Mathew 10:32**

**Main Message: Patience and faithfulness will be tested by every means but persevere to the END!**

**Read Joshua 24**

When we are gathered here together, in Church, and in this relatively safe environment we can be brave and think that we can stand for God no matter what. Today I want to put that to the test. Why you might ask? Christian Training of course. It is the same method that the military and others in industry do to perfect the outcome when in the “real” situation.

Our world is not what it was. Persecution of Christians has come to the USA. Oh, we may not see it so much here in Fair Haven, but the growing Apostasy is evident. Religion is replacing Christianity because it can be made more palatable and sufferable. People are “spiritual” no instead of holding to whatever doctrine makes everyone happy.

Joshua said, no. He forced Israel to commit. Unfortunately, the next generations were not educated about that commitment and fell away from God over and over again. I believe we have entered the days that no one truly wants to have to live in, but nevertheless, here we are. We are not going back in the same way that we got here. There is a future where people will proclaim, PEACE and SAFETY, but that is only a lie because the purity of our faith will be under even more attack. History repeats itself because we keep making the same old mistakes.

We can see a great divide coming. We see it today. You can shut your eyes to it, but that won't fix it. What fixes it is what Joshua said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Period.

So what is the test I want to present to you today. First let me read to you from **Mathew 24:7-13**.

There is little that can hit harder than a betrayal of someone that you have trusted. Family ties are strong and so much more the hurt when things go astray. But it will be worse when we are forced to choose between serving the Lord and just playing along. Whatever God it is that will be more appealing will be no real God at all.

**Let me read Mark 13:8-13**, which is a parallel to what I just read in Mathew but with more detail in one significant area. Families will be split apart. They will be split apart because of the belief in Jesus Christ. Do you serve the god called Family, or will you stand true to Christ? Remember, this is Christian Training for when the battle becomes real. Let me read to you from **Mathew chapter 10:32-39**.

A person can take a punch to the gut if they are prepared and see it coming. It will still hurt. There will be pain, but the “surprise” factor is taken out of the equation. You can be assured that this will happen, because it is told to us to prepare us for the worst. IF we are honest, some of us may already be seeing this come to pass. Our children have forsaken what we have taught them to believe. They are chasing after the Gods of this age in which we live.

Jesus gave this message several times and in various ways and not just the couple I have selected. Are you fully prepared for this eventuality? May God spare us this pain. Seek Godly wisdom and stay faithful always. It is always told to us to finish the race and persevere to the end and that we must, or we have wasted our time. As for my House, which I did not build, I will serve the Lord. I hope you are with me.