

# AS FOR ME & MY HOUSEHOLD

DATE: SUNDAY, 18TH OF JULY 2021 | DARING GREATLY SERIES: PART 5

## COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

### NOTES FOR LEADERS:

- Have you signed up to receive our daily devotionals? If not, send us a WhatsApp on 071 530 9275 with your name + surname and we'll add you to our broadcast list.
- Steve will be preaching the first message in our new series, Sovereign State, this Sunday. Join us online at 09h00.

## START TALKING

*(Note to leaders - you could let the 3 questions below be the sum total of your meeting!)*

1. What is one thing from Sunday's message that stood out to you?
2. In the unrest events of the last week, how were you affected physically and/or emotionally?
3. What do you think God is doing in this time?

## START THINKING

1. Think about the Joshua series. What is one thing that you learned about the Bible, about Joshua, or about God? What is one area of your life that you are working on changing?
2. Peter Rasmussen spoke about limiting our choices by "taking things off the table" so that we don't default to them in moments of weakness. What are some examples of things we need to take off the table?

## START SHARING

1. Read Colossians 3:1,2. What does this verse mean to you? How do you go about setting your mind on the things above in daily practice?
2. What are some of the things that hinder us from fully surrendering to the Lord? What area of your life do you want to surrender more fully to God?
3. Based on what we have learned about Joshua through this series, which one of his character traits would you like to imitate? Use this to describe the legacy you would like to leave to your family and friends?

## START PRAYING

Jesus, in the moments when there seems to be so much chaos around us, we pray that we would not lean into our own understanding or strength. Remind us that we need distance from our issues and that we can lean in and find strength in You! Amen!

## START DOING

Commit to memorizing Colossians 3:1,2 this week. Share with someone from your group what God is teaching you through this Scripture.

# SUMMARY

## OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Following a very difficult week in our city, Peter Rasmussen shared a practical message that filled us with courage and faith. This Sunday, we found ourselves at a high point at the end of the story of Joshua. It is a moment where the whole nation of Israel was gathered to commit themselves to a covenant with the Lord: *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. 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.*" Joshua 24:14-15

We often find ourselves in similar situations - making promises and vows to God (with every good intention), but we struggle to keep them. We see the same with the nation of Israel in the books of Kings and Chronicles (following the book of Joshua); it's a rollercoaster ride of commitment - constantly struggling to keep their promises. Scripture guides us, gives us comfort and calls us into a greater connection with Christ and a greater commitment to walk with Him. Peter gave us three practical points to help us do this:

### 1. Position is everything

If we don't start the journey of commitment knowing that the power of the Christian life does not lie in us but in Christ, we are in trouble right at the outset. Because it comes from Him, the power we need to make commitments and to live the Christian life does not come from us but Christ himself.

We need His power; we need the spirit of God to work in us to give power to us. Trying to please God is a recipe for failure. The only way to deal with the problem is to be hidden in Christ, who is always pleasing to God. We need to be in The One who pleases the Father all the time, rather than trying harder to make better commitments and hang in there and do better ourselves in our own strength (which we often fail to do).

*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.* Colossians 3:2-4. Only through Christ do we have the power to live up to our commitments. It is not about gritting our teeth and doing our best, but leaning into Christ, into who He is.

2 Corinthians 1:20 says *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.* So we are committed to God, we want to serve Him completely but it is through Christ that we utter our yes - not in our own strength.

*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.* Matthew 3:8. In other words, prove by the way that you live that you have repented of your sins and turn to God. The scripture is clear that there is a life that needs to be lived so change is part of the deal. First, we live in and through Him (because that is where the power is), then we realise that it produces a life that is worthy of the call that He has called us to. That really is the deal and if we don't get that at the beginning we are lost in trying to make any commitments to God.

### 2. Limit choices

The problem for us is sin. It gets in the way. The things we do and the thoughts we have, get in the way of making commitments to God. We grow up being told that choice is a privilege and that to be able to choose is to be empowered. You see the problem with choices that are meant to empower us, but they end up paralysing us. We don't know we are struggling, so many things are in front of us. So much stuff is going on. So many issues, so many things, so much sin is on our table that we are constantly picking and choosing and picking at the wrong stuff. The call from Joshua was to choose.

Joshua 24:15 says, *"Choose this day whom you will serve..."*

Our problem is that we have too much choice. We can simplify our choices by taking things off the table, so they aren't available to choose, e.g. murder, rape,

violence, adultery, abuse, gossip, lying, jealousy, pornography, racism, pride, entitlement, bullying....

### 3. Get a run-up

Our humanity gets in the way. We are meant to get distance from our issues, but we end up standing right in the middle of them.

*"Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign Lord. Repent, and turn from your sins. Don't let them destroy you! Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign Lord"* Ezekiel 18:30-32 (NLT).

Repentance is not so much about 'grief' over your inability but movement towards His ability.

We need to get distance on our issues.

*"...as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."* Psalms 103:12.

*"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,"* Acts 3:19.

A run-up helps you clear a bar that before was totally out of reach.

*"As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."* It's not a challenge to overcome. It's not a 'Braveheart' moment to try our best. It's a moment to lean in. It's a moment of dependence upon Him. By doing this, we get distance on the issues that would stop us from serving the Lord. In doing this, we simplify our lives to more easily connect to the Source of all life.