

The Choice All Parents Have to Make, Part 1

Joshua 24:14-15

I. How we parent this year is an *immense* choice.

- Choosing who your master will be is no light decision.
- The only correct posture a human being can take toward God. We're not His equal. We're His creation. The most we can ever hope to do is serve Him.
- The beautiful thing is that God is not a demeaning and wicked taskmaster. Yahweh is the most loving and gracious and Merciful master in the universe. He doesn't mistreat His servants; He goes to every length possible to make them His sons!
- The reason our parenting choices are so immense is that they reveal *whom we're going to serve*. The choice of whom who you are going to worship with your life is the *biggest* choice in the world.

II. How we parent this year must be an *individual* choice.

- As much as he or she would like to, your spouse cannot make this choice for you. I can't make this choice for you or for your spouse or even for my spouse. Our pastors can't make it for us, our mentors can't make it for us.
- Christ-honoring parenting will never happen by accident. It doesn't come about through osmosis. It's an individual commitment that must flow from a personal choice.
- And remember this, you're lying to yourself to think that you don't have to choose. The moment you say, "*I don't have to choose one way or the other*," you've already made your choice.
- That means that you *will* make an individual decision this year. You're going to worship someone. You're going to serve something. Embrace the responsibility for your personal change; stop relying on the spirituality of your friends or family.

III. How we parent this year must be an *intentional* choice.

- Choosing to serve God is not going to happen by accident. You're not going to trip and fall into parenting for Christ.
- None of us improvise well in our parenting. Just like an actor needs to memorize his lines and rehearse, we must purposefully and premeditatedly prepare to parent.
- If we don't intentionally commit to serve Christ in our parenting, we're not going to do it.

IV. How we parent this year must be an *immediate* choice.

- Regardless of how many times you've made the same choice, *every day* we must rededicate to serving God.
- However, our lives are lived in the nitty-gritty of the uninspired and humdrum. If we only ever individually and intentionally make immense decisions on the mountain tops, we'll fail to glorify God in the daily valleys.
- So, yes, you need to purposefully choose whom you will serve *now* as opposed to later.
- However, the time issue is not merely immediate as well as it is *repetitive*. You need to choose *today*. And then you need to choose *tomorrow*. And then you need to choose the day after that.
- The point is that we don't simply need to choose today — at the bright beginning of the new year — we need to choose every day hereafter.