**Black Preacher Sermon**

**I Think I’ll Just Go With God**

(Joshua 24:15 KJV)

*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

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s we look at Joshua chapter 24, I would mention that according to some sources, Joshua had been the leader of the nation of Israel for about 50 years beginning with the death of Moses and Israel’s entrance into the Promised Land Canaan. But Joshua dies at the end of this chapter at the age of 110. So this last chapter of the book that bears his name is also the final chapter of his life—this was Joshua’s farewell sermon. In the events detailed in this chapter, we see Joshua’s desire for the nation as he is about to pass off the scene and ultimately pass the Ministry’s baton to another ministry successor.

Joshua as the Leader of the Congregation of Israel was concerned lest the people lapse into idolatry because of the influences of the wrong people, peer-pressure, and the over stepping of authority of the heathen nations around them. Israel was prone to worship idols, and Joshua knew that idolatry would cause them to forfeit their inheritance. Joshua didn’t want the people to make a wrong turn spiritually in the days ahead that would cause them to get off course, or that would cause them to go in a direction contrary to the direction God would have them to go in under his leadership.

The heart of this chapter and really, of Joshua’s entire life is the great statement that he makes in verse 15 when he said, “*Choose you this day whom ye will serve … but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*.” The setting of this text is Joshua’s farewell address to the children of Israel. It took place at Shechem. Shechem was the place where Abraham first pitched his tent and built an altar, dedicating the place to the living God (Genesis 12:7). Abraham’s altar was a witness against the false gods of the Canaanites.

It was at Shechem that Jacob built an altar to God on his way home from Paddan-aram (Genesis 33:18-20). Shechem was a city selected by Joshua as a city of refuge, along with five others (Joshua 20:1-9). It was the place where Joseph was buried (Joshua 24:29). Shechem was the place allotted to Ephraim. It was at this historical place that Joshua called the children of Israel together to share with them this parting message. In this message, Joshua wanted Israel to stop straddling the fence in their relationship with God.