

Choose this day who you will serve.

This passage from Joshua is probably one of the most famous in the entire bible.

It's also very famous as a religious plaque one can affix in a prominent place in one's home so that all everyone who sees it will know of your devotion and commitment.

I particularly love the way it's phrased: "choose *this day* who you will serve." I love that it is not reported that Joshua said, "Choose – now and forever--- who you will serve." Nope—It's only for one day. "Choose this day..."

It's almost as if Joshua knew that the people of God he served were prone to being fickle. And he was right. They often got discouraged. Things didn't live up to their expectations. Things didn't progress fast enough. Sometimes they even threatened to walk away if their needs weren't met.

So maybe Joshua knew they could only make a commitment one day at a time.

I think that is something that we who live in the 21st century really understand.

I mean it's not like we don't already have a million things in our lives that vie for our complete commitment, like: being the perfect family, finding—and holding on to—the perfect job, to commitment to searching the internet for the perfect chicken salad, or the perfect bathing suit.

Ok—I'm getting silly now.

But really—there are so many things to choose to commit to on any given day. We can (and do) choose to be busy. That "to do" list isn't going to do itself! So we often choose to commit to it before we can do anything else.

We can choose to serve our “ideals” whatever they may be, and to put them before everything else. After all—they are the most important thing, right? After all, we’ve been committed to following them for a very long time.

Interestingly, I was reading just the other day that when our ideals go unexamined and unchallenged for too long—they become almost mythologically important to us. And then they can become more important than anything else in our lives.

We can choose to serve money. Now—notice I didn’t say “we can choose to serve wealth”. Not everyone who serves money is wealthy. And not all wealthy people serve money. But here’s the thing to ask ourselves—how much of the day do we think about it (having it, spending it, saving it, investing it), or maybe we fantasize about it (winning the Lottery--- just once!).

How often do we decide really big decisions based on it?

And I’m sure there are many many MANY other things that we can choose to serve in our lives.

But how many of us wake up and say, “You know what: THIS DAY I’ll serve Jesus.”

And-- I know-- Sunday is probably not the best day of the week to ask that question is it?

But try it again tomorrow!

We follow & serve Jesus. We’ll promise that in just a few minutes. And we make that promise not just for Sundays but for every day. But what does that mean?

If we served more completely-- this Jesus, this king of love, we could find that he is trying to teach us how we are interconnected to everything and everyone-- at the molecular level. Everything we see, taste and touch—we

are literally all One. God permeates everything and everything exists in God.

If we served God in our hearts we might make different choices with not only our money—but the money throughout the world. Money is a currency—same root word as current, as in a stream, and love teaches us to beware of damming up the money current by any one country or any one person, or any one group-- because that would leave us with pools of money, while the rest of the world is arid. Money, like the current, needs to flow.

If we served the Lord of love we would see that busyness exists to cheat us out of time. Time for others, time for ourselves.

So who do we really serve? To answer that-- we have to have the courage to look deep within.

The love that what Jesus teaches us is not easy. If it were easy, we wouldn't have to spend our whole lives learning how to love absolutely everyone. And we wouldn't have to spend our lives coming to grips with the fact that we are absolutely loved.

It's not-- as GK Chesterton says—that *“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It'[s that it'] has been found difficult; and left untried.*

So let us, each of us, choose this day who we will serve.

Like Joshua- I hope we all say, “I will serve the Lord, the God of Love, and he will help me to discover love everywhere, and I will accept the challenge to discover that love within me.

Amen.