

Sunday, July 23, 2017 - "I-Will B: The One" - Norflette Shumake

Key Passages: Joshua 24, Exodus 17, Acts 4

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We are all made with gifts and talents to serve God and to serve others
- Joshua 24: "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord"
  - Joshua is saying I'm not going to "do me"
  - He is saying I am going to "do God"
- What we serve will either REDUCE us or ENLARGE us
  - In Egypt Pharaoh wanted them to serve to reduce and abuse them
  - But God brought his people out of Egypt so they could serve him. And he would ENLARGE their influence and reach and area
  - God wants our service to enlarge us
- If you have an inability to serve/worship/sacrifice (which is what serving the Lord means), something is a "Pharaoh" in your life
  - The enemy has you in some kind of bondage
  - Our service is just part of our worship
- God wants us to be like Him NOT like Pharaoh or whatever is keeping us from service and worship
  - We become like what we worship
  - He wants us living lives around the King and his mission
  - Our mission is not the church...but the mission of the church is the great commission (Matthew 28)
  - Living out the mission of the King with the character of the King
- In Acts 4 Peter and John heal someone and the pharisees say "these guys are 'idiots' but we can tell they have been with Jesus"
- Being with Jesus makes all the difference
- Joshua learned the importance of spending time with God
  - What makes you effective is not your talent/ability but your time with God
  - Moses showed Joshua this
  - Joshua's time spent with God enlarged his vision on his spy trip to the promised land
  - Joshua lives on mission because he spent time with the one who gives mission
- "Once God has your heart, He has everything you have" - Norflette Shumake
  - We are called to say to God that our lives don't belong to us, but it belongs to our father
  - The life of a believer is to say "God I want to do WHATEVER you want me to do."
- Equipped to serve outside of the church, inside of the church
  - Joshua was trained by Moses to be a leader of God's people
  - Sometimes serving in the church helps us be equipped for life "out there"

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. From a practical standpoint, how does Joshua's declaration, "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." play out in your everyday life?
2. What are the things in your life that are preventing you from serving/worshipping/sacrificing to God?
3. How has God made you more like Him through serving Him?
4. How are you doing spending time with God lately? How is that affecting your mission positively or negatively?
5. What does it mean to you that your life does not belong to you but to God? How does that manifest itself in your own life?
6. How might God be calling you to serve in the church or outside of the church?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: Proverbs 15 Tues: Proverbs 16 Wed: Proverbs 17 Thurs: Proverbs 18 Fri: Proverbs 19**

**\*\*5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**