

# Men Love Power

Joshua 24:15

## Preface

I don't know about you but I like the looks of the front lawn today. Our parking lot is full of tractors, mowers and other tools and toys of men. It is a great day when we can show them off and inspect one another's powerful equipment.

Men love power and what better way to display power than with our equipment? Men stand in awe at powerful equipment because it gets the job done.

Why do men have such a love for power equipment? Because God made us that way!

You need to understand that when a man operates a piece of equipment such as a backhoe or tractor, he doesn't think, "Wow, look what this machine can do." Instead, he thinks, "Wow, look at what I can do with this machine."

God made men to want to accomplish things. We naturally want to "get it done." God has given us an instinct for defending and accomplishing beyond our obvious abilities.

God made us that way and there are no apologies necessary. God also calls men to be other things for Him.

## Scripture – Read

*<sup>14</sup> "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD."<sup>15</sup> If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" Joshua 24:15*

## Introduction

Illus: I heard a story about a couple who had a newborn baby. The wife came down the hall and noticed the father just starrng into the babies' nursery. She thought to herself, how sweet that he was just standing there admiring their baby. She walked up to him and softly said, "What are you thinking?" He replied, "I still don't see how they can manufacturer their baby bed and sell it for only \$89.95."

Illus: I was watching an old Andy Griffith show. Barney had by chance captured a criminal who vowed to get revenge. When he was being transported by the state police he managed to escape and was seen returning to Mayberry to make good on his revenge. Barney was scared to death. Barney was being urged to get out of town a few days. As scared as he was, he replied, "Thelma Lou, what kind of man would I be if I run away from danger?" This reflects the God given spirit of every man. Never try to take that away.

In his book, "Wild At Heart", John Eldredge says, "The world is trying to feminize men."

Society seems to be on a mission to remove all distinctions between men and women. It is men that are being whittled away. It is men who are losing their God given identity today.

Joshua is a wonderful example of how God made men to be strong. Joshua was known as a man with deep trust in God. Joshua lived through the difficulties of slavery in Egypt. Joshua became God's chosen servant to continue the work of Moses by leading the people.

Fulfilling God's plan was often challenging for Joshua. We picked up in our text when Joshua is challenging the people to take a stand. In this text, we see one of the most important statements in God's Word, **"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Jehovah)."**

There is much we can learn from this statement about being a man and a father. Let's take a closer look at what makes a godly man.

## Content

### 1. God Calls Men to Take a Stand

Joshua was willing to take a stand. God instills in us, a sense of dignity and integrity. God wants us to take a stand for what is right. God never intended for men to be silent wimps who are unwilling to speak up for what they believe.

This is not to say that men have no emotions. This does not mean that men cannot show mercy, kindness and forgiveness. Clearly the Bible teaches us to love one another and to forgive one another.

But, there are times when a man must take a stand for what he believes. There is no requirement for men to always be, 'the nice guy.' Sometimes we must stand up and be heard.

The same Jesus who wept at the death of Lazarus and healed the sick and blind, said to the Pharisees, "You snakes! You brood of vipers!"

God made us as men to be strong when we need to be strong. It is a tragedy how society is trying to make men out to be weak idiots who must be led around like puppets. Just watch some of today's TV shows and you will see what I mean.

Illus: On this stand is a large piece of wood with the words carved into it, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." This picture hangs in my office down at Easy-Haul. What is important is not that this is my stand as a Pastor. It is more important that I be willing to declare this stand as a man rather than a Pastor.

God made men to instinctively take a stand. We are humans and we have many faults and weaknesses. But, we are also meant to be strong and take a stand when the circumstance calls for it.

Joshua knew it was time to take a stand for God and he did so boldly. God needs men today to take a bold stand for Him. God wants you to take a stand for Him in a society that is belittling Christians and rebuking the Word of God.

God calls men to take a stand.

## 2. God Calls Men to Speak for Their Households

Like it or not, God created men to take a clear role of leadership in the household. Men were created to carry certain burdens and responsibilities within the household.

Men were created to take ultimate responsibility for their families. This means responsibility for the spiritual welfare of our families just as much as the general welfare.

God calls men to be the head of their households first in matters of spiritual leadership.

God's Word says, *"<sup>24</sup>But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her" Ephesians 5:24-25 NAS*

Now you can rationalize this text as long as you want but this is straight out of God's Word. These words do not belittle or elevate either the husband or the wife. They simply state the facts of responsibility on the part of both.

Attention Ladies - Some women reason, "Well when my husband starts acting like Jesus Christ then I will start showing him some respect." Try telling that to God and He will likely tell you to start doing as He commands and your husband might start being more like Christ.

The bottom line is this. Men are created to be proud and responsible. **It is the relationship with their wife that makes or breaks the confidence of a man.** Ladies you have the ability to make your husband feel bigger than life. Likewise, you have the ability to make him feel like a complete failure.

You can lift him up or trample him under your feet. **When you belittle your husband, you do so to your own detriment as you destroy his spirit.** If a father doesn't feel the respect and appreciation of his family, **his life is empty.**

1 Corinthians 11:7 says, "The glory of a man is his wife."

Illus: From time to time, Pam will put her arm around me and snuggle up. She will say to me, "Do you know you are my knight in shining armor?" You can't imagine what that does to me. I could go out and tackle the entire world. I am the man! Suddenly, it doesn't matter to me that I failed some things or missed certain opportunities. All that matters is that I am my woman's knight in shining armor.

Attention Men - Now this God given arrangement also places a huge responsibility on the husband and father. This means that we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church. We must be willing to make huge sacrifices.

Illus: When I had a wreck that was not my fault, my insurance company paid to fix my vehicle. However, they had me sign a "Subrogation Agreement." The subrogation agreement stated that I relinquish my right to sue or seek any retribution from the other party. I subrogated my rights over to the insurance company and any compensation collected became theirs.

Unfortunately, we live in a society where many men are willing to subrogate their responsibilities to their wives, children and even the government.

Before you say, “Not me”, you need to think a moment. Are you the spiritual leader in your family or do you subrogate that responsibility to your wife? When you do you are the loser. **You forsake one of the very purposes for which you were created.**

When you refuse or neglect to be the spiritual leader of your family, you are rejecting your God given call.

When you bury yourself in work and neglect time with your children and family, you are subrogating your God given leadership in as a father.

When you  dwell on your shortcomings or physical limitations and feel sorry for yourself, you let Satan rob you of your God given leadership.

When you come home and turn to alcohol day after day like a pacifier, you are subrogating your God given right to be respected as a father and husband.

God created you to be a spiritual leader. He will empower you to be just that if you will be obedient.

Illus: James Dobson once said, “Most children see God the way they perceive their earthly fathers.”

God calls men to speak for their household.

### 3. God Calls Men to Serve the Lord

Joshua made it clear that he and his family would serve God.

The word serve here means a great deal. It means to fear God, obey Him and worship Him.

To serve God means to love Him and fix your heart upon Him. It means we take God seriously and recognize that He is holy.

Paul says in Colossians 1:18, *“In all things Christ should have preeminence.”* In other words, Christ should be at the center of everything we do.

Joshua made it clear to the people of Israel, if they were to serve God they had to get rid of their false gods and idols.

As men, we must get rid of the things that stand in the way of our serving God. What prevents you from truly serving God? There is absolutely nothing that is important enough to hinder you from committing your life to serving Him. No job, no recognition, no

luxury, nothing should be allowed to prevent us from serving our Lord.

Illus: Someone once said, “You’re only young once, but immaturity can last forever.” It is time to grow up and start serving God.

God calls men to serve the Lord.

### Conclusion

Men love power. The greatest power you will ever experience will be the power of God when you stand up and declare you will serve Him.

Illus: I read about a man whose young son had become very ill. After the boy had undergone a series of test, the father was told that his only son had a terminal illness. The young man had accepted Christ as his Savior so the man knew death would usher him into Glory; but he agonized over how to inform the boy he would soon die. After seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, he went with a heavy heart to the boy’s bedside.

When he got there he read his son a passage of scripture and said a prayer with the boy. Then he gently told him that the doctors felt that he only had a few days to live. And he went on to ask him, “Are you afraid to meet Jesus, my son?” Blinking away the tears, the little boy said bravely, “No, not if He is anything like you Dad!”

Dads; God calls you to be the spiritual leader in your household. Do your children see Christ in you?