SERMON OUTLINE

5th February 2012

Theme: ***Commitment Month: Covenant with God***

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Readings: ***Joshua 24: 14 - 27; Ephesians 2: 1 - 10; Luke 14: 25 - 33***

In our reading from the book of Joshua, we see Joshua leading the people of Israel into making a covenant with God. This covenant would secure tremendous blessings for Israel. And while it is clear that God would be the source of these blessings, it is equally clear that God had certain expectations of Israel. Israel had to consider not just the blessings she would enjoy as God's covenant partner but also the responsibilities that came with that position. Hence, Joshua's call to Israel is **"Choose today whom you will serve".** For Israel, the choice was between serving the Lord or idols. This choice was important and one that Israel had to make. It is a choice each one of us as disciples of Jesus today have to make as well.

We note from that reading that making that choice to serve the Lord required Israel to do 3 things. Perhaps today we are also being challenged to do them. Those 3 things are:

1. Remember ***what the Lord has done (Joshua 24: 17 - 18)***

2. Turn ***your hearts to the Lord (Joshua 24: 23)***

3. Commit ***to following the instructions of the Lord (Joshua 24: 25)***

For Reflection

Why is it important for me to be in a covenant relationship with God? What will turning my heart to the Lord and committing to follow the Lord's instructions look like for me? How willing and ready am I to do what will be required?