

Chapter 5

The Journey Takes a New Shape: A People at Home in the Promised Land

Called to Prayer

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: In times past your ancestors, served other gods. But I brought your father Abraham from the region beyond the River and led him through the entire land of Canaan. I made his descendants numerous. Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve him completely and sincerely. Cast out the gods your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. If it is displeasing to you to serve the Lord, choose today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

—Joshua 24: 1-3, 14-15

- *Reflection:* How could this passage be understood in the modern world? In what ways does God gather his people and offer to them a choice to follow him or not? What are the promises offered to those who serve the Lord today?
- *Meditation:* Re-read the passage as if Joshua is speaking directly to you. What is your reply back to the Lord’s invitation to serve him?

Resolution: Make a list of false gods that it is tempting for you to follow. In prayer ask God for guidance on how to serve Him over these false gods.