

**LESSON 41**

**Egermeier's Story:**

Page 144 – The Altar Beside the Jordan

Page 147 – Joshua's Farewell

**Memory Verse:** Joshua 22:5 “Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.” NASB

**Scripture:** Joshua 22-24

**Teaching Resource:**

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lessons 82, 270

**Object Lesson:**

Ask the children to imagine they have not had a home to live in since a fire destroyed their house two years ago. A businessman visits them one day and learns they have been living in a homeless shelter. The business man gives them a new house to live in out of his generosity. The family had to do nothing to earn the new house.

Several months later the businessman calls them to say his son is traveling through their town and needs a place to stay for one night. Ask the children what they would do. Help them see that their motivation to help the businessman's son is grounded in the gracious act of him giving them a new house. Draw the comparison of what Christ has done for us through his cross work. Help the children understand our obedience comes from thankfulness for what God has done for us, and keeping God's commandments is not a burden but a joy.

**Emphasis:** Guarding Your Faith

**Key Theme:** *God offers salvation as a gift. Our thankfulness for this gift motivates us to keep His commandments.*

Joshua's parting words to the Israelites before his death are instructional to us as we look to guard our faith in Jesus Christ and His salvation for us. In Joshua

chapter 22, the first four verses review the situation in which the Israelites find themselves. They have been obedient, and the Lord has blessed their obedience with military victories. Then in verse 5 Joshua gives them instructions—“Be very careful...” The literal translation of the Hebrew would be “take good care.” The construction in the Hebrew shows two major areas for them to focus their care.

**1. To observe the commandments and the law, specifically those commanded by Moses**

We are not under the law of Moses; we are under grace. However, with the exception of the commandment to keep the Sabbath, all of the commandments are repeated in the New Testament; so we are expected to live moral lives based on these commandments and the many other imperatives of the New Testament.

**2. To love the Lord, your God**

Jesus said in John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” Although in this context this is not a definition of love, it certainly makes sense that obedience is a measure of love. But this aspect of obedience looks at mental attitude. This was the sin of the leaders of the Jews in the times of Jesus. They obeyed all the commandments, but there was no love; their mental attitude was one of pride in their actions, not obedience because of love.

**a. To walk in all His ways**

The idea of love directing your obedience will be reflected in a desire to obey completely, not just in those things that are convenient. The term “to walk in all His ways” conveys the idea of habitual behavior, everyday activity being in loving obedience.

**b. To keep His commandments**

The first chapter of Isaiah is an example of the Israelites obeying God concerning sacrifices and feasts but not following the Lord in their moral and ethical lives. As a result, they became like the sinful people of Sodom. They were not truly obeying the commandments—they were only going through the rituals.

**c. To hold fast to Him**

The word used here means “to cling.” Hold fast is okay, also. The same word is used of holding on to a sword or even for the tongue clinging to the roof of one’s mouth. Closeness is the idea. In terms of how this would be applied to our relationship with the Lord, probably the First Commandment offers the key: “You shall have no other gods besides me.” Do not allow other things to become your obsession.

**d. To serve Him with all your heart and all your soul**

Here again, our service to the Lord is one of attitude. It does not say to serve God with only our arms and legs but with our very being. If we serve the Lord with our inner being, the physical service will follow.