

## **Resolved: Common People/Uncommon Courage**

### **Joshua**

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*Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Schechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. (Joshua 24:1)*

#### **Joshua: the courage to shepherd your family...**

- **The challenge of spiritual competition** – “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.” (v. 14)

*I took your father Abraham...and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants...I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau...Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted the Egyptians by what I did there, and I brought you out...But they cried to the LORD for help, and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians...I brought you to the land of the Amorites...They fought against you, but I gave them into your hands...So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant. (vv. 3-13)*

- **The spiritual courage of choice** – “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (v. 15)

#### **God’s goal for the family shepherd(s)...**

- **Your family is a place of refuge** – “He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.” (Prov. 14:26)
- **Your family is a learning center for faith** – “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. (Prov. 22:6)*

- **Your family is a launch-pad for ministry** – “You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints.” (1 Cor. 16:15)

#### **The model of the perfect family Shepherd: Jesus...**

*He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household... (Eph. 2:17-19)*