

**“As for Me and My House” – A Father's Day Charge  
Before the Wedding  
Joshua 24:14-15**

**INTRO: A Sacred Stand at a Sacred Time**

Today is no ordinary day.

It's **Father's Day**—a day when we honor the weight and worth of godly fatherhood. But it's also a **wedding day**—a day when a man stands not just to take a bride, but to stand for what his house will become.

And what better day than this to declare what every man of God should say with boldness:

**“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

All the men out here right now need to realize we are at war. And we're going to take some hits. We're going to take some losses. But we're going to keep fighting. Hey, nothing is going to stop me. You need to get this straight from within today. Not tomorrow. Not next week. Not next year. TODAY.

**“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

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**I. Fatherhood Isn't Just A Role—It's A Calling**

**""Psalm 127:3-4**

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.""

Being a father isn't just about being present in the home—It's about **pointing the home in the right direction**. We **MUST** stick to the straight paths. It's time to get things right.

Every father is an archer. His children are arrows. His home is the bow. And his faith is the aim. Let me explain.

Every father is an archer. He decides what direction the arrow will go. A father is the archer who takes responsibility for the outcome. A father takes aim and guides his children.

His children are arrows. Arrows don't launch themselves. They follow the path given by the archer. You launch arrows with a purpose.

His home is the bow. The bow gives the arrow its force. A home is a place of discipline, direction, and spiritual strength. A better home gives the arrow greater power. We must make stronger homes. And we need good men. We need good fathers who serve the Lord.

And that's why this church is here. Men, it's time to get things right. And this church is here to help you do that. And I see men out here in this congregation right now who are doing just that. Don't quit. Keep fighting.

And his faith is the aim. The target is Jesus Christ. The aim is eternal purpose. We don't want success by the world's standards. We want success by God's standards. We want soul winners. We care for the things of God. We want people in heaven forever. If a father doesn't have faith as his aim, he's just firing blindly into the dark.

A good father aims his family toward heaven—and refuses to miss the mark! He absolutely refuses to miss that mark.

We don't need more men in the house—we need more **fathers at the helm** LEADING their wife and their children. Where are you out there? If you're a father, please raise your hand. I need you today to make the decision to lead your family. If you'll do that, lower your hand now and take it to heart. If not, leave your hand up the rest of the service. Just kidding.

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## II. The Father Sets The Spiritual Climate

### ""Genesis 18:19

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.""

Before God rained fire on Sodom, He spoke well of **Abraham the father**. He said, “FOR I KNOW HIM. That he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord.”

A father's influence **builds the guardrails** of the home. The father is to lead the home and keep his wife and children on the right track. If you haven't done that, let the past go and get it right today. You get to church every week, Sunday and Thursday, right here with us. And you stick with us. And we'll all go the right way together.

The father determines:

- What the house allows
- What the house honors

- What the house believes

You show me the father, I'll show you the direction of the family. If the father isn't there, he left his people on their own. Don't do this. Don't even think about it. The fathers out there need to step up now, and be fathers.

That's why Satan doesn't just attack children—**he targets the father**. Satan may not always attack the father first—but if he can **take the father out**, the whole family becomes easy prey. That's what's happening, and that's why you need a **STRONG CHURCH**. This is that church.

If the shepherd is scattered, the sheep will stray. Do I get attacked? Yes. Do I want to quit some days? Yes. Will I quit? You can ask my wife. I've been with her for 29 years. Met her in 1996. She knows me. God knows me. I will not quit. I'll fight to the death.

And I need all of you to do that with me. We are in a spiritual war. You can see it out there. It's time to fight. Men, father's, it's time to fight for the Lord Jesus Christ. Choose your side.

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### III. A Good Father Protects, Provides, And Points To God

#### ""Proverbs 14:26

In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.""

A father is a **refuge**. He is a **shield against the world**, a **provider in the storm**, and a **voice of faith** in times of fear.

A child should be able to look at his father and see:

- **Security in his strength**
- **Stability in his example**
- And **salvation in the God he serves**

That's not perfection—it's **faithfulness**. And if children in here and out there don't have fathers who will do their job, then the men in here will step up and will help lead these children. I **WILL STEP UP**. Other men here will step up. That's why you get them to church. They need this.

## IV. The Power Of A Man Who Chooses God

""**Joshua 24:15**

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.""

This wasn't a **suggestion** from Joshua. It wasn't a **hopeful wish**. It was a **bold declaration** of direction.

He didn't say, "As for me and my house, we'll figure it out."

He didn't say, "As for me and my house, we'll go with the flow."

He said, "**We will serve the Lord.**"

A real father doesn't wait for the culture to approve—he leads. He doesn't follow the crowd—he follows Christ. He doesn't go out drinking beer and doing drugs in front of his children. He puts all that pure and evil trash out for good. And he steps up as a strong leader who walks that straight and narrow path. He might fall off here and there, but he gets right back up and gets back on that path.

Because at the end of the day, a Godly man isn't measured by what he built, but by **who he led to the Lord**. Get your children to the Lord. And then get others to the Lord.

## Conclusion: Men Who Mean It

Today, just before a man, Mr. Joseph Hicks right there, takes vows in holy matrimony, we pause to recognize and honor the most sacred vow a man can make:

**To lead his house in the fear of God.**

So, on this Father's Day—and this wedding day—I call every man in the room to echo the words of Joshua with fire:

**"As for me and my house—we will serve the Lord." What will you do? You will serve the Lord. And if not, you go up against the GREAT and MIGHTY GOD of ALL CREATION. You go up against your Creator. You'll lose. I don't want you to lose.**

No turning back. No compromise. None at all. No confusion. Just faith. Just fire. Just God.

Men out here in the audience. If you're with a woman, it's time to get married. Joseph here is taking that step. Others here are telling me they are going to do the same thing. It's time to get things right. Fornication, a relationship outside of marriage is not right, and God is not happy with that. Make the Lord Jesus Christ happy, and things will fall into place according to His will.

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**Let's pray. Closing Prayer:**

*"Lord, raise up fathers and leaders who will stand in their homes with boldness. Let this house, this marriage, and this man be a testimony of your truth. May the fire of commitment never burn out. Thank you so much for everything you do for us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."*

*Everyone please stay seated except for those who are in the Wedding Party.*

*Joseph, the groom, please come up here with me and be seated. Lachelle, Pam, Gary, Nathan, Josh S, Chris S, Emma, Abigail, Abram, please go to the lobby. Callie please play "The Love of God" for us.*