

One People, One Lord

Read: Joshua 22:1-34

Main Idea: Peace among God's people is worth protecting, because the Lord who is in our midst is the one who made us one.

Key Verses: “Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” **(Joshua 22:5)**

Key Principles

- Faithfulness to God shows itself in faithfulness to His people, so the promises we keep to one another are part of the obedience He commands.
- Past obedience is no guarantee of future obedience, so the believer who finished well last year still has to guard his heart this year.
- A rumor repeated is not a fact established, and God's people owe one another the courtesy of asking before they accuse.
- Sin is never a private matter in the body of Christ, because what one member excuses the whole family eventually carries.
- Good intentions poorly explained can still divide a church, so those who act have a duty to make their reasons plain.
- No one is born into God's family, so our task is to keep our children under the gospel until they trust Christ for themselves.
- The clearest evidence that God is in our midst is not our size or our excitement but our willingness to work through conflict until we are one again.

Discussion

1. What kind of faithfulness does Joshua commend in verses 1 through 4? Where is God asking you to finish what you started?
2. Why warn these tribes to love God and cling to Him just as they head home to rest and wealth? What makes comfortable seasons dangerous?
3. What went wrong in how the western tribes reacted to the report about the altar? What would war have cost them if they had never asked a question?
4. How can a church confront real sin without assuming the worst about motives? What separates warning a brother from accusing him?
5. What changed once the eastern tribes were allowed to explain themselves? How does a restored relationship show that God is present?
6. Who have you quietly assumed the worst about? What would it take to go to that person this week and simply ask what they meant?

Prayer

- Pray for a church that guards its unity as carefully as it guards its doctrine.
- Pray for:
 - o Leaders who ask questions before they draw conclusions.
 - o Children in our homes to trust Christ for themselves.
 - o Strained friendships in our church family to be mended this week.

One People, One Lord
Joshua 22

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| I. | Keep the <u>commands</u> God <u>gave</u>. | 22:1-8 |
| 1. | <u>Finish</u> your <u>assignment</u> . | 22:1-4 |
| 2. | <u>Love</u> your <u>God</u> . | 22:5-6 |
| 3. | <u>Share</u> your <u>reward</u> . | 22:7-8 |
| II. | Test the <u>reports</u> you <u>hear</u>. | 22:9-20 |
| 1. | <u>Wait</u> before you <u>judge</u> . | 22:9-12 |
| 2. | <u>Ask</u> before you <u>accuse</u> . | 22:13-16 |
| 3. | <u>Warn</u> before sin <u>spreads</u> . | 22:17-20 |
| III. | Protect the <u>peace</u> God <u>provides</u>. | 22:21-34 |
| 1. | <u>Answer</u> with <u>honesty</u> . | 22:21-23 |
| 2. | <u>Build</u> for your <u>children</u> . | 22:24-29 |
| 3. | <u>Rejoice</u> in God's <u>presence</u> . | 22:30-34 |

NEXT WEEK:
Undivided
Joshua 23