

Marching to Victory: Teaching to Remember Josh 4
(Detailed Account of the Crossing – The Main Emphasis: 12 Stones)

Lessons from Crossing the Jordan and the Memorial at Gilgal

1. Obedience precedes blessing [1,3,5,8,10,15-18]
2. God's mercy and blessing extends to all His people [2,4,5,8]
 Not 9 or 10 or 9.5 – You are not alone!
3. God alone is our salvation/deliverer [3,5,7,9-11,13,16,18,23,24]
4. A memorial/reminder is needed for the present generation [5-6]
 - a. Sermon in Stone – message for the heart via the eyes instead of ears
 - b. Visible symbol of God's utter faithfulness
 - (1) God uses simplicity, not the memorial but God himself
 - (2) Prayer, Bible, The Church – [Heb 10:26, 1 Cor 1:18-31]
 - c. First steps of faith by Israel in their God
 - d. Act of gratitude, honor, & praise of God's goodness [Ps 103:1-5]
 - e. Encouragement for future difficult days b/c wilderness is the only place of return: "No turning back – your footprints have been covered by the Jordan" [Jn 6:67-68; Rom 6:8-12]
 - (1) Not a stale-stagnant life, mired down in defeat
 - (2) But a victorious life [Ps 119:64; 1 Cor 15:51-58]
 - f. Tendency to forget what God's done [Ps 78:11; 106:13; Matt 16:9]
 - (1) In your past
 - (2) In the past of others [Ps 119:52; Isa 51:9-11]
5. A memorial/reminder is needed for future generation [6-7, 21-23]
 - a. Primary purpose – "sign among you" – it is active, functional
 - b. Salvation history – perpetuated in memory of coming generation
 - c. Redemptive significance – expression of a covenant fidelity, not just recalling a miracle
 - d. Children will ask – Parent must let them know [mentioned 2 times]
 - (1) Knowing with both head and heart – at one & the same time
 - (2) Normal children have inquiring minds – affords teaching the wonderful works of God in all disciplines Why is sky blue?
 - (3) Fathers are responsible to teach, do not delegate carelessly
Don't place career (what you do) above calling (what you are)
 - (4) Notice the pronoun "you" – children told the story as if the event happened to them personally, involving participation
6. A memorial/reminder is needed for the people of the earth [24]
 - a. To know God is mighty and powerful

b. To ___fear___ God forever

(1) Most fundamental expression in OT for faith/religion

(2) Not slavish dread, but recognize God's glory and majesty along with trust [Psalm 130:4]

(3) Israel felt this when witnessed nation's response [Josh 5:1]

(a) Rahab – led her to faith and deliverance

(b) Jericho – led to their anguish and destruction

Undoubtedly lookouts were watching the Israelite advancement

7. Responsibilities and promises to God always need to be kept [12-13]

a. The 2½ began their commitment to God and Israel

b. God used those armed because others had family responsibilities

8. God always fulfills His ___promises___ [14]

9. With God nothing is done without ___purpose___ [19]

a. 10th of the 1st month – day when Passover Lamb selected

b. Reminder of rescue and deliverance from death [Ex 12]

Two Very Important NT Memorials

1. Baptism: Symbolizes the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection; it also declares a believer's personal profession that he is dead to the world and resolved to walk in newness of life; it also symbolizes his placement into the body of Christ (fellowship).

Jn 1:28 – Bethabara: where John baptized many including Jesus;
means: “house of the ford”, ancient ford of Jordan where Ephraim crossed in Judges 7:24 and some speculate of Israel's crossing

2. Lord's Supper: symbolizes and celebrates our passage with Christ through death and the blessedness and triumph of now being on the resurrection side of judgment; it looks forward to the realized hope and final salvation. 1 Cor 11:26