

Quarter Four: Lessons of Faith from Joshua

Jill Morikone

Lesson 3—Memorials of Grace

Tuesday: Remember

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- **Last Week:** “Surprised by Grace”
 - Joshua 2 & 9
 - Spies at Jericho (Rahab’s house)
 - League with the Gibeonites
- **This Week:** “Memorials of Grace”
 - Joshua 3 & 4
 - Crossing the Jordan & spiritual reminders

Memory Text: “For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up for us until we passed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever” (Joshua 4:23, 24, ESV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Crossing the Jordan (James)
 - Josh 3:1 – 5 – spiritual preparation for crossing the Jordan; importance of the Ark of the Covenant, going before them
- 2. **Monday:** The Living God of Wonders (John L)
 - Josh 3:6 – 17 – the miracles our God can perform; crossing of the Jordan
- 3. **Tuesday:** Remember (Jill)
 - Josh 4:1 – 19 – signs of God’s wonders / miracles; remembrances of what He has done
- 4. **Wednesday:** Forgetfulness (John D)
 - Josh 4:20 – 24 – importance not to forget what God has done for us
- 5. **Thursday:** Beyond the Jordan (SQ)
 - Various Scriptures – significance of crossing the Red Sea & the Jordan River; comparison to Jesus’ experiences

Tuesday: Remember

Joshua 4:1 – 19; Ex 7:3; Deut 4:34; Gen 9:12, 13; Gen 17:11; Ex 12:13; Ex 31:13, 17; Eze 20:12; Deut 5:15; Deut 8:12; Gen 28:18 – 22; Ex 12:26, 27; Deut 6:20 – 25

Remember: The Memorial Stones (Joshua 4)

- **After the miracle**
 - Vs 1 – “And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying,”
 - **Takeaway #1: Sometimes, deliverance precedes the lesson**

- We attempt to teach people, when they haven't experienced Jesus
 - No deliverance from sin, no freedom from addiction – they're not ready to learn
 - They crossed over the Jordan, **then** the lesson / reminder came
- **Tribal leadership & representation**
 - Vs 2, 3 – “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, (3) and command them, saying, “Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.””
 - **Takeaway #2: Everyone is involved**
 - Leader from each tribe = represented all of the people
 - Nobody is overlooked in God’s deliverance – nor in God’s plan
- **The sign**
 - Vs 4 – 6 – “Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; (5) and Joshua said to them: ‘Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, (6) that this may be a **sign** among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, “What do these stones mean to you?”’
 - Sign = Heb, *oth* (oath) = “sign, token, mark, miracle”
 - Gen 4:15 – “mark” set upon Cain was a “sign”
 - Gen 9:12 – Rainbow was a “sign” of the covenant
 - Gen 17:11 – circumcision was a “sign” of the covenant
 - Ex 7:3 – “signs” were plagues / miracles from God
 - Ex 12:13 – blood on doorposts was “sign” of God’s protection / passing over
 - Ex 31:13 – the Sabbath was a “sign” of God’s sanctification
 - Ex 31:17 – Sabbath was a “sign” of God’s creation
 - **Takeaway #3: Signs are an outward sign of inward change**
 - Mark on Cain = outward sign of inward decision against God
 - Rainbow = outward sign of God’s promise
 - Circumcision = outward sign that people belong to God / righteousness by faith
 - Blood on doorpost = outward sign of God’s salvation / protection
 - Sabbath = outward sign of inward belonging / sanctification / redemption / recreation
 - Stones = a sign of God’s deliverance
 - Faith of God’s people
- **The memorial**
 - Vs 7 – “Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a **memorial** to the children of Israel forever.”
 - Memorial = *zik-rone*’ = from root word “to remember” or “to recall”

- Denotes more than a passive act; implies a remembering, followed by a proper action
- **Takeaway #4: Remember God's deliverance**
 - Deut 5:12 – “Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt,” & God brought you out by a mighty hand (context of Sabbath)
 - Sabbath is a great day to remember what God has done
 - Deut 6:12 – When you have eaten & are full, “then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”
 - We forget God delivered us from bondage
 - God redeemed us
 - God saved us from our sin & ourselves
 - Ps 103:2 – “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits...”
 - Remember what He's done for us & His blessings
- What memorials have we set up? For ourselves & our children?
 - Communion = memorial of Christ's death on the cross
 - Sabbath = weekly memorial of Creation / recreation
 - Salvation / redemption
 - Sanctification
 - Rest
- **The Stones**
 - Vs 8 – “And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.”
 - Two 12-stone memorials set up
 - These 12 stones were carried over to where they camped in Gilgal (Vs 19 & 20)
 - Other 12-stones set up in the midst of the Jordan (Vs 9)
 - **Takeaway #5: Walk in obedience**
 - Children of Israel “did so”
 - Just as Joshua commanded
 - Took up the stones, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua
 - Connection of faith & obedience
 - God parted the water – they walked forward
 - God brought over on other side – they picked up stones to remember victory
 - God brought down Jericho – they marched around city & blew trumpet
 - James 2:17 – “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

- **The installation of Joshua**

- Vs 14 – “On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.”

- Passing of the mantle of authority: crossing of the Jordan was a sign / miracle

- **Takeaway #6: The Lord sets people up; the Lord takes people down**

- God exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel

- He didn't exalt himself

- Prov 21:1 – “The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”

- Dan 2:21, NLT – “He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up others kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.”