

August 13th, 2023

Remember

Joshua 3-4

Open with prayer

Read for insight into the scripture

This week we are walking with the Israelites into the Promised Land. Their journey out of Egypt began 40 years earlier when the Lord parted the Red Sea to save them from death to bring them into the wilderness. Now they are exiting the wilderness with a new identity, no longer slaves. God worked on them and among them for these 40 years showing them how to live, giving them laws, and understanding how to serve the Lord and others. God raised up leaders among them and the 11 brothers who, 400 years ago, went to Egypt to meet their 12th brother who was rescuing their family are not just a small family anymore. They are a nation made up of 12 tribes (descending from those 12 of Abraham). And just to note how many people this is, the 2 1/2 tribes that walk across the river first to make sure they are protected are 40,000 people. After a quick google search, this is half of Walton county, and more than all of the population of Santa Rosa Beach. This is a lot of people. And now after all this time and all this growth, this nation is receiving the land that those original twelves great great grandad was promised. And you thought your journey seemed long?!

This journey into the Promised Land is completed in today's reading. We have all had some sort of journey that had a crossover time. Maybe you became president of your company, maybe you started a job that had been in the making for a while. Maybe you published a book, maybe you had a kid, or got married, maybe your test results came back, maybe you moved into a new house or city...the anticipation was killing you... and then it finally happened.

Take a few minutes and have a few people share about what you remember feeling about one of these times in your life.

Take turns reading the text out loud, pay attention to what stands out to you and what you have questions about, then discuss the questions.

Read Joshua 3 and 4 in full.

- ***What stands out to you in these passages?***
- ***According to 3:5, what are the people commanded to do? Why do you think this is important?***
- ***According to 3:12-13 What do you think the Hebrew people are thinking about? Why would God recreate a miracle?***

• **What are the differences you see in this miracle vs. the first parting?**

- Think about the fact that the people thought they were going to drown or be killed by the Egyptians the first go around. Moses is the one who had the faith. This time the people are directed by Joshua and told what is going to happen and there are many leaders stepping into the banks to lead. What do you think about this? What does this tell us about the Israelites?

On a side note, don't you love how God would make the timing so that the river is at its highest, just to show his power to his people!?

• **According to 4:5-7 and 21-24. What is the point of finding 12 stones?**

How about you in your life.

- ***Do you have standing stones that speaks to what God has done?***
- ***Do you have things that stand out, that are not normal, that are intentionally placed in such a way that cause your children or future generations to ask, "what's the deal with that?"***
- ***If not, what are we passing down to the future generations?***
- ***Vs. 24, to me, is the most important. 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. Talk about this statement.***

God is capable of so much more than we generally imagine. He bookends this journey with the splitting of bodies of water. One through a man and a staff and the other through the soles of his followers feet.

God is clearly telling these people to mark this miracle. Mark God's Provision in your life. All the people experienced God's hand at work and together piled up a memorial for it...and not just for them, but for generations.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5 and 11-12.

We are called to be living stones...and we are told why in vs 12.

What do you think about this?

While you have been discussing this together, where are areas that you feel convicted to pay attention to, or change? Is there a memorial you need to build to call God's faithfulness to memory more often? Do you feel like you need to make any changes so that others may see your life and glorify Glorify God?

Practically Speaking, what do we do when we NEED a memorial.

One of the practical calls for action this week from Andrew was that it is appropriate action, when we are facing rapids, to call on the name of the Lord and *to pause and rest in the presence of God when we are in the rapids...and we can experience the supernatural divine power that pushes back against the evils of this world.*

If you are feeling like the world is mowing you over, that you are caught in the rapids of life and you are on a fast track between life and death, I would encourage you to do as they did. Take God into the rapids with you, invite the presence of God into the chaos of your life, recognize Jesus there with you, and see how there is peace in the midst of

the waves, there is provision in the midst of the destruction, there is calm in the midst of the storm.

If we are in a seasons of hectic chaos or destructive pain, we need to be people, who stop and invite God into that situation. We need to pause and say out loud or pray quietly, ***“God, I need you in this situation. Calm the chaos and lead me to your promise.”***

Practice for this week:

Read all of 1 Peter chapter 2 this week and ask yourself the questions it provokes. Are we putting away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander? Do we desire spiritual milk so that we will grow up into salvation? Have we tasted that the Lord is good? Do we stand in our identity and calling the Lord has given us: A royal priesthood, and his own possession? Have we followed him out of darkness? Are we proclaiming his excellencies? Are we abstaining from passions of the flesh (WHICH WAGE WAR AGAINST OUR SOUL...this is severe)? Are we being honorable, so that when someone speaks against you like you are being evil, they will actually see your good deeds and glorify GOD on the day of visitation.

How is your life demonstrating God to others? What about your life shows others that God is faithful and good and causes them to Glorify Him?

- How can we remember better?
- How can we remember the things that are good and important?
- How can our memories help us in seasons of darkness and difficulty?
- How can remembering the past make a difference in the future?

Anyone have any thoughts or questions?

Prayer Request and closing Prayer

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. sarah@thechapelatseaside.com

Quotes from Sermon:

God knows we need a reminder to share with not only ourselves, but future generations about the provision and goodness of God.

Joshua knows that when times get hard and the water dries up, in the midst of death and drought, there is a reminder that is revealed at the bottom of the river bed that points to the provision and goodness of God.

That is why you put a reminder at the bottom of the river.

When you are at your lowest, when there is no hope, there is a reminder that God can do it again. - Andrew Beard

If they had tried to do it on their own, it is like trying to muscle the promises of God out of him, instead of trusting his presence to prepare the way.

Aug 13-Aug 19

**Situation and circumstances change with God.
As we often say, with Christ comes change. - Andrew Beard**