

Remembrance Fuels Thanksgiving - Pastor Sarah - October 13th

Matt. 4:18-22 "When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, "Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. Tell them, 'Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight."" So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them, "Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' Then you can tell them, 'They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord's Covenant went across.' These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever." So the men did as Joshua had commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River, one for each tribe, just as the Lord had told Joshua. They carried them to the place where they camped for the night and constructed the memorial there. Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this very day."

1. Remembrance of who God is

Remembrance of who god is should always turn our hearts toward thankfulness.

There are other instances in the bible were stones were setup to remember God, a couple of examples are with Jacob in Genesis and Samuel in 1 Samuel 7:12.

Jacob wakes up from a dream where he encountered the Lord,

GENESIS 28:16-19

"When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and

QUESTIONS:

.1. What was the significance of the stones with Joshua, Jacob and Samuel?

2. Should we focus on the action of setting the stones, the stones themselves or what their significance?

3. Why is it important to remember what God has done for us and how does that help us keeping a grateful heart?

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set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel..."

We see something similar again when Samuel has victory over the Philistines,

SAMUEL 7:12

Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!"

And perhaps the most obvious and greatest stone of remembrance is the stone that was

rolled away at the tomb of Jesus on the 3rd day where he defeated death, hell and the grave.

So, why are these stones important?

What is scripture teaching us with these memorials and these Ebenezer stones? It is reminding us that to have a true heart posture of thankfulness toward God, we must look back to remember how far God has taken us. We must look back to see the thread of His goodness in our lives. And when we look back and see God *rightly*, our hearts have the automatic response to praise and give thanks- even when trails, sorrow, heartbreak and disappointments come.

2. We must see God rightly

SEEING GOD RIGHTLY SHOULD ALWAYS TURN OUR HEARTS TOWARD THANKFULLNESS.

How do we see Him rightly? We must know what the Holy Scriptures say.

In the book of Psalms, it says that God's Word needs to be hidden in our hearts...so is it in your heart? Do you know the heart of God? Do you know His character? Do you have awe & reverence for Him? Do you view Him as someone who can just answer your prayers? Is He disposable to you? Or is He your entire life? Is Gods Word hidden in your heart?

QUESTIONS:

1.	How are we able to
see	God rightly?

2.	How	is	that	helpful	for
us?					

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If you are a true disciple of Jesus that means you know who He is
THROUGH the scripture and not just an encounter you have with Him
on Sundays mornings.

It's being a person of the Word, so that it naturally pours out of you- to then draw your heart back to thanksgiving.

A thankful heart looks like being more in love with His face than His hands.

His hands are what He can do for us, but His face is who He is and that should be all that we are after.

TO HAVE HEARTS OF THANFKULNESS WE MUST REMEMBER AND WE MUST SEE HIM RIGHTLY.

3. How do we posture our hearts in thankfulness in our day to day lives?

1. KEEP HIS WORD IN YOUR HEART

We must be a people who are serious about what the Word of God says. We don't need to just know what it says- we need to study it, we need to make it a daily rhythm. If you come to church every Sunday but don't open your bible or let the Word of God transform you- you are missing the whole point as disciple of Jesus. When we are actively and daily in the Word our hearts naturally turn towards a posture of thankfulness.

2.SET UP YOUR OWN STONES OF REMEMBRANCE

You don't actually have to get a stone (although very cool if you do) but mark down

something of significance that God has led you through-like Joshua, or a moment when you encountered Him- as Jacob did. Use a journal and mark down dates of answered prayers. Set something up as a "stone" in your life that you can look back on with a heart full of gratitude- this will help build that posture of a thankful heart.

3. LIVING A LIFE OF REPENTANCE

If you want a true heart posture of thankfulness, repentance will always give you that. When we humbly come to God with a heart of repentance, He exchanges that for one of gratitude- because who

else can look at our sin, take it out of our hands, wash us clean and call us beautiful? Repentance always leads us to thankfulness.	
Putting it all together (Application)	
1. Don't forget from where God has brought from. Living constantly chasing what we think we need, that next project, the next thing to do can affect our heart. Always remember God's faithfulness by going back in remembrance of what God has done in your life. That will bring gratefulness to your heart and strengthen your faith.	
2. Can you serve a God you don't really know? You need to know God first. Know his character. Who he really is and don't follow an idea or image through religion or other people's perspective. God is personal and searching for a personal relationship with you. Get to know him through his word.	
ACTION STEPS:	