



LET'S GO DEEPER

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 where stones were set up 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?

3. What is the impact or result when we dive into getting to know God and see him rightly?
