

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: Joshua – Message 7

2018 VISION: *Mission Jerusalem: Reach* ①

Scriptures for Today: Joshua 5:1-15 – Circumcision, Passover and the presence of Jesus Christ

Today's Message: Serious Obedience – A mark of true repentance and personal holiness.

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw God's plan for leading future generations to His truth which included memorials, history lessons and inquisitive children. Today, we will be reminded of what God expects of us before we are able to experience His presence and victories in our life. Just as soon as the children of Israel arrive safely on the "other side Jordan," God will turn Joshua's attention to what appears to have been forgotten in the wilderness – circumcision! How is that possible? Circumcision was the very _____ that God had given to confirm His covenant with Abraham. We must ask ourselves today how we expect God's _____ in our lives when we have areas of sin and disobedience? Fortunately, we can experience the very presence of God when we choose a life of _____ obedience to His Word!

LEARNING TOGETHER

1. The Text Joshua 5:1-15

- **Subsequent fear** – The word of God's faithfulness to Israel caused all the kings to _____.
5:1 *"...heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan..."*
- **Serious obedience** – God told Joshua there was circumcision that must happen _____!
5:2-7 *"LORD said unto Joshua, **Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise...**"*
- **Shame removed** – God told Joshua that a _____ had been removed from off him.
5:8-9 *"**This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.**"*
- **Solemn passover** – The passover was _____ as God said; the manna ceased the next day.
5:10-12 *"**kept the passover on the fourteenth day...And the manna ceased..."***
- **Sacred ground** – Jesus Christ showed up; Joshua properly fell on his face to _____.
5:13-15 *"...but **as CAPTAIN of the host of the LORD am I now come.**"*

2. The History Genesis 17 (Circumcision); Exodus 4:21-28 (Serious obedience)

- **Circumcision** – The covenant between God and Abraham was simple – every man child shall be circumcised. Circumcision was a *sign*. When the passover was instituted,

it also was a *sign*. The requirement for the passover was circumcised boys.

Genesis 17:10-14, 23-27; Exodus 12:43-51; 13:1-10; Rom 4:11; Col 2:11

NOTE We learn in the NT that circumcision was a sign that Abraham received, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had before he was circumcised. God was clear to keep a straight line of understanding between the promises given to Abraham (Promised Land and blessings) and the obedience of circumcision.

- **Moses** – The Bible gives an account of a time when God sought to kill Moses *after* giving him instructions to go to Pharaoh. As God preserved it for us in the Scriptures, the issue was over the circumcision of his boy – a failure to do it.
Exodus 4:21-28; Num 14:22, 31; Deut 1:29; 1 Corinth 10:5; Heb 3:17

NOTE Apparently, Moses' wife (a Midianite) had conflict with Moses which resulted in Moses not circumcising his boy! As Moses nearly died, he and Zipporah must have both known what the true cause of the issue was! After she circumcised the boy, the reproach was gone, and Moses went on to lead God's people out.

3. The Lessons Psalm 90:8; John 6:51; James 4:8

- ✓ *After the crossing of the Jordan River, it was time for God's people to get serious about sin.*
 - **Serious obedience** – God was gracious in His leading; it was time for complete obedience.
Psalm 90:8 “Thou hast **set our iniquities before thee**, our secret sins in the light...”
Truth: The _____ God exposes or reveals your sins, confess and forsake them.
Learning: **If you love Jesus Christ, you must repent often and obey His Word.**
- ✓ *After the children of Israel kept that 1st passover in the Promised Land, the manna ceased.*
 - **Our daily bread** – God had a plan for this all along; it was now time to feed themselves.
John 6:51 “**I am the living bread** which came down from heaven... **live for ever**”
Psalm 34:8 “**O taste and see that the LORD is good**: blessed is the man...”
Luke 11:3 “**Give us day by day our daily bread.**”
Truth: For forty years, God humbled them; the _____ bread sustained them.
Learning: **Woe to us if we ever loathe the bread of God's Word! (Num 21:5)**
- ✓ *After the children of Israel got right with God and kept His Word, He came to help them!*
 - **Ever-present help** – There is a connection with obedience and God's presence and help.
James 4:8 “**Draw nigh to God**, and he will draw nigh to you... **cleanse your hands**”
Truth: God was ready to bring _____; Jesus is the Captain of our salvation!
Learning: **Jesus Christ will be our ever-present help as we draw close to Him daily.**