

## STAY CLOSE #4

Joshua 5:1-9

01/30/2022  
Sunday a.m.

### SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

#### SLIDE 2 – STAY CLOSE – PROMISE & PRESENCE – 2022

- Not a fearful “stay close” THINK: invitation to **dwelling** (remain, live, inhabit, stay)
- Our place is in the shadow of Most High; to be where He is, walk in His ways
- Exploring the basis FOR & foundation OF our relationship w/God
  - Covenant between God & Abraham (Israel, believers, etc)
  - PROMISE – “**this is how things will always be between us**”
  - Upheld by the good will, good name, & power of the greater party
- Basis for our relationship w/God is rooted in God initiating covenant w/us

### SLIDE 3 – STEP BY STEP: THE LAND

- Crossing the Jordan (at flood stage) to enter the Land & drive out the -ites
- MIRACLE = evidence of God’s favor
  - Israel – signs of the Covenant – the Ark, the Law, Circumcision(?) –
  - All the Canaanites are scared to death (hearts melted in fear)
  - Time to go & conquer? No – time to stay close & follow instructions

### SLIDES 4-11 – JOSHUA 5:1-9

#### SLIDE 12 – TIME TO RENEW THE COVENANT

- Signs of the covenant – Israel let circumcision lapse – travels etc...
- Before conquering the Land – have to renew the covenant – circumcision
  - All the males born in the wilderness – Hill of the Foreskins
  - All males > 20 years old who exited Egypt – died → disobedience
- This is why the circumcision had to happen – people of the covenant

### SLIDE 13 – HEART OF THE MATTER

- Covenant is not 100% about the actual procedure of male circumcision
  - Visible, daily reminder of holiness/God’s chosen people – sensitive area
- Even in Torah/Mosaic Law – explanation – THIS is about THAT
  - More than just ‘had the procedure’ – God wants our hearts

### SLIDES 14-16 – DEUTERONOMY 10:12,13,16

### SLIDE 17 – INSIDE/OUTSIDE

- Physical circumcision meant to be a sign – reminder of the ‘real thing’
- Dedication of hearts & lives to God vs. external rituals
  - God is more concerned w/INSIDE (hearts) than OUTSIDE (form)
  - **Isaiah 29:13** – *come near w/mouth & honor Me w/lips but heart far away*

### SLIDE 18 – PUT IT DOWN

- Circumcision is physical cutting away – what God is talking about is spiritual
- What needs to be “cut away” from my heart?
- What do I need to “put away”/be done with?
- Where is God working in me to “walk in His ways”? ( –
  - Obedience to Him, observing His commands
  - **Deut 6:1-4 – Shema** – Love the Lord w/heart, soul, strength
- Stay Close = walk WITH Him – in words & actions
  - No condemnation & no game-playing
- 21 Days Fasting & Prayer
  - What gets laid down?
  - What gets picked up/reinforced?
- There’s no ‘list’ for me to give you – Holy Spirit & God’s leading
- Love God
- Love people like you love yourself

#### **SLIDE 19 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?**

- Prayer – **Psalm 139:23,24**
- Start/end the day with invitation to HS to search heart

My job?

- **Stay close to Jesus**
- **Be flexible/open to God-directed change**
- **Be prepared – when God says “Get ready”**
- **Be strong & very courageous – God is WITH us**
- **Be careful to obey all we know to obey**

#### **SLIDE 20 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27**

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace.” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*