



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. How would you complete this statement? 2017 was _____ ...
2. Where can you see God's hand in your life over this past year? Where there moments where you felt like He was absent? Did you have any of these 'wilderness' experiences? How can you apply today's message to these moments?
3. What things do you need to consecrate and commemorate in your life?
4. What things do you need to commit to the Lord as you consider 2018?

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. Perhaps over the holiday, read Nehemiah 8 and explain to your kids the Feast of Tabernacles and have fun illustrating the story by building a blanket tent.
2. Practice celebrating all things with your family this New Year. Take some time to inventory together all the things God brought each of you through.
3. Take some time pray together.



New Year's Eve Service

December 31st, 2017

A Special New Year's Message

Tents & Rocks

Pastor Brian Stanley



Nehemiah 8:14-17 (NLT) ¹⁴As they studied the Law, they discovered that the Lord had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should live in shelters during the festival to be held that month. ¹⁵He had said that a proclamation should be made throughout their towns and in Jerusalem, telling the people to go to the hills to get branches from olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees. They were to use these branches to make shelters in which they would live during the festival, as prescribed in the Law. ¹⁶So the people went out and cut branches and used them to build shelters on the roofs of their houses, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of God's Temple, or in the squares just inside the Water Gate and the Ephraim Gate. ¹⁷So everyone who had returned from captivity lived in these shelters during the festival, and they were all filled with great joy! The Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua son of Nun. (Reference: Leviticus 23:39-43)

The Israelites were _____ to the land Jehovah God had promised them. But they were not yet _____.

They lived ____ the wilderness, but they were not ____ it.

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NLT) ⁸It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. ⁹And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. ¹⁰Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

Though you may _____ about the wilderness, you will never have to _____ about God's _____ and _____.

Their present _____ did not diminish their future _____.

Romans 8:18 (NLT) ¹⁸Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

_____ is temporary, God's promises are permanent.

Romans 8:28 (NLT) ²⁸And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Consecrate your _____.

Commemorate your _____.

Joshua 4:1-9 (NLT) *excerpt*

⁴So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. ⁵He 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. ⁶We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' ⁷Then 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."

Commit your _____. *And celebrate everything!*

Psalms 37:5 (NLT) ⁵Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

NOTES:

