

## Joshua 4

- I) Welcome
  - a. Scripture reader – Kenley Patrick
    - i. Psalm 78:3-8
  - b. Review Joshua 3
    - i. Chapter 4 is a continuation of 3 and the crossing of the Jordan
- II) Don't run into battles unprepared.
  - a. Remember God first.
    - i. God didn't send them straight into war.
    - ii. Memorial of 12 stones
      - 1. Other examples:
        - a. Jacob
        - b. Passover/festivals
        - c. Noah and the rainbow
        - d. "Brought out of Egypt"
        - e. Communion/Lord's Supper
    - iii. Practical application: Don't start your daily spiritual battles unprepared.
      - 1. Pray
      - 2. Study
      - 3. Spend alone time with God meditating on who He is and what He has done for you and in you.
    - iv. When you doubt... remember what He has done.
    - v. When you lack confidence.... Remember Him.
    - vi. When you are tempted.... Remember Him.
- III) Memorials served another purpose: Father's Day! *Tell your children.*
  - a. Repeated twice... verses 6 and 21. It's important!
  - b. Discipleship starts at home
    - i. The primary responsibility is on the *parents* not the *church*.
    - ii. Church's responsibility is to reinforce and equip.
  - c. Common theme in scripture:
    - i. Exodus 13:14
    - ii. Psalm 71:18
    - iii. Psalm 145:4
    - iv. Deuteronomy 6:6-8
  - d. It's the Great Commission on a smaller scale.
  - e. What if we don't pass it on? What if we fail to tell our children about God?
    - i. You get the next book after Joshua... Judges.
    - ii. If we don't give them answers about God, the world will give its own "answers and gods"... and they're all the wrong ones.
    - iii. We're always one generation away from Judges.
  - f. Plug VBS

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- g. While ideal... it isn't always possible in every home.
  - i. Single parent homes... absent fathers... loss of parents... etc.
  - ii. We don't just need *biological* father's stepping up... we need *spiritual* father's filling gaps.
    - 1. God is a "father to the fatherless"... we should mirror that.
  - iii. I sympathize because I experienced it... and God blessed me with a spiritual father in Bill Smith.
- IV) Example of discipleship in the text: Moses and Joshua
  - a. Joshua "son of Nun" but mostly associated with Moses.
  - b. Moses taught... trained... disciplined... prepared Joshua.
- V) Back in the text... crossing the Jordan is completed.
  - a. Camp on "10<sup>th</sup> day of the first month"
    - i. Passover lamb selection day.
    - ii. 40 years after God was preparing them to leave Egypt... they are now being prepared to conquer the Promised Land.
- VI) Always a bigger picture: not just remembering... not just telling our children... but making God known to all the people of the earth.
  - a. You've experienced your personal Exodus moment? Your crossing the Jordan moment? Slavery to freedom? Death to life? Then *tell the story*.
  - b. The story of the Gospel.
  - c. *Knowing* the story is *half* the mission... we also have to *tell the story*.
    - i. **WORSHIP TEAM BACK UP**
  - d. Like the Stones, the Gospel symbols aid in sharing.
  - e. Remember the story... tell your children... tell the world.
  - f. God wants all people to know Him.
- VII) Offer invitation.