

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 4 captures a climactic event in Israelite history. For the previous 40 years the nation has been wandering in the wilderness. Now, *finally*, the time has come. They're going to cross the Jordan and finally stand inside Canaan's land. But the river was at flood-stage, overflowing its banks. This event, for a new generation, parallels the Red Sea crossing. This is God's signature that He is good to His word. Today, we're going to talk about what happened at this pivotable moment in Israel's history and see how it relates to the pivotable moment our church family is in right now.

I. 12 Stones from the River

- A. Joshua 4.2-3 - God commands Joshua to choose **12** men to gather 12 stones and carry them to where they would make camp in Gilgal.
 - 1. 4.8 - The 12 men bring them up out of the river bed, and pile them in the promised land.
 - 2. 4.5-7 - tells us why. They were going to be stacked there as a public sign...
 - 3. 4.23-24 - *This is so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord's hand is **strong**, and so that you may always fear the Lord your God.*

II. Today, We Start our own Crossing

- A. As we prepare to move, it is important to recognize how we got here.
 - 1. Psalm 77:11-12: *I will remember the Lord's works; yes, I will remember your ancient wonders. I will **reflect** on all you have done and meditate on your actions.*
 - 2. Markers give us the opportunity to speak to the next generation about times when God has been faithful to us by blessing us with great opportunity.
- B. Back to Joshua 4...
 - 1. 4.6-7 - in the future, children would ask: *What do these stones mean **to you?** Therefore these stones will always be a **memorial** for the Israelites.*
 - 2. 4.9 - There was also a private memorial.

III. We Reflect on our own Memorial

- A. 54 years in this location. Around 60 years of work as a congregation. 35 years in Colombia ...
- B. So many memories in this building. We've worked, prayed, and studied together here.
- C. Decades of selfless leadership by 13 men who have served as shepherds.
- D. 13 ministers who have served among us in various capacities.
- E. Many others there is not time today to mention.
- F. The legacy is not about a **building** ... it's **about people** ...
 - 1. In is in this that nothing will change when we move. The mission remains the **same**.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Joshua 4.15-18 - the description of the departure of the ark of the Lord out of the Jordan is every bit as dramatic as it's approach to the river. God again worked the impossible.
- B. So let us go. Let's cross our own Jordan today.
- C. Ephesians 3:20-21: *Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*