

Wet Feet Faith

I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome to those online.** We are in our LC for 3 weeks during Sanct remodel.
- B. **Slide1 Food Pantry:** Let's help stock our *local MURRIETA Community pantry*. We are collecting cereal, canned veggies, and soup. Bring on Sun Oct15 & 22nd, or drop off in the office during the week.
- C. **Slide2 Fostering a Hope Community:** Just a reminder that our next monthly meeting is next Wed night, Oct18 at 7pm in the Agape room. We'll be discussing what it means and how to be 'more present' as we parent our kids. If you are a foster parent or have adopted kids, we'd love you to come check out our support group.
- D. **Slide3 Demo Day: Do you own a hard hat? If so,** join us on Oct27th & 28th from 7am to 4pm. We will have 2 demolition days, you can come to one or both, as we continue to remodel the inside of the sanctuary. If you can help, *please go on our website and sign-up* so that we know how many people will be there.
- E. **Slide4 Prayer:** God may You **get the glory** in the details.

II. Slide5 Intro: Wet Feet Faith

- A. Joshua now leads the children of Israel into Canaan. 430 yrs in Egypt as captives (Ex.12:40). Then 40 years in the wilderness.
- B. Slide6a show Israel crossing map. [Shittim. Adam. Jericho. Jordan River]
- C. Slide6b What do we know about the the ark of Covenant? (*replica, type, shadow*, of what's in heaven)
 1. What did it represent? (The sacred presence of God).

III. Slide7 MIRACULOUS CROSSING (Ch.3) Read 1-6

- A. FOLLOW GOD'S LEAD (1-4)
- B. (4) We face an unknown future.
 1. We need the Lord's presence as we step out each day.

2. God goes before us, and we must follow as He directs.
3. *God knows the way, leads the way and opens the way.* As He is *the Lord of all the Earth* (11).

C. CONSECRATE YOURSELVES (5,6) קָדַשׁ (qadash) *render holy, sanctify, set apart, purify*

D. He didn't say exactly how to do that, **but** get your hearts and lives right with God.

1. G. Cambell Morgan, "*The church pure is the church powerful.*"
2. There's going to be a battle on the other side, **but** He doesn't say, *sharpen your swords, but instead purify yourselves ... why?* because **God's going to do it!**

E. Slide8a WALK IN FAITH (7-17) *Read 7-17*

F. **God could have** parted the Jordan River *automatically*, like the doors at Albertsons. Why was having *the priests feet wet* a big deal? **FAITH!**

1. I would have *paper, rock, scissored* the guy for **back of ark** position.

G. **You have to get your feet wet.** This is God's *Wet Feet Faith*.

1. It takes great faith to **walk through water**, even greater to **walk on water**.
 - a) **Don't stay still lingering on the banks or in the boat.**

H. Slide8b (14-17) Why is the city of *Adam* mentioned?

1. **Adam** was 16 miles north. **The sea of Arabah/aka Dead Sea.** (width of crossing)
2. The children of Israel were now about 3-3.5 million in size. Imagine that # walking over your border in 1 day. [quick stats: If they walked in two's, side by side, the line would be **800 miles long**, **and** take **a month** to cross]
 - a) **But** if they were **5000**, side by side, **3 miles wide**, they could pass in a day.
 - b) **God gets the glory in the details!**

IV. Slide9a **MEMORIAL OF THE CROSSING** (Ch.4) *Read 1-11*

A. **FIRST STONE MEMORIAL** (1-8)

- B. **Tangible reminders of the Faithfulness of God.** *Why are we told to make them?*
1. Probably because we are quick to forget *the faithfulness of God*.
 2. So they are not only ok, but sound like a great idea to have/make these in your life. [Soviet infantry shoulder board - *Slide9b* little Shan girl]
 3. **Our reminders of what God has done.** A Victory reminder.
- C. Immortalized in the hymn *Come Thou Fount, Here I raise my Ebenezer* (stone of help).
- D. **1 Sam.7:** Israel finally got the Ark of Cov back from the Philistines. So Samuel gathered Israel together at *Mizpah*. Phil. heard, and were coming. Samuel didn't say *get ready of war*, **but instead offered a sacrifice to God**. God responds with *a loud thunder*. Philistines were *confused*, Israel drove them back (never to occupy just to harass)
- E. 1 Sam.7:12 *Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us.*
- F. **Ebenezer** (אֶבְנֵי הָעֵזֶר) - *stone of help*. **A victory marker**. This large rock became a **war memorial** in a special sense - a reminder of *Jehovah's power in battle*.
1. **Since the beginning God has sealed special events w/some kind of physical memorial:** He gave **Noah a rainbow**; the **passover feast** as a reminder of **Israel's deliverance** from Egypt; **2 tablets** of stone to remind them of all the **Mosaic Law**; the tabernacle, the ark, the cloud, **all visible reminders of God's ever present help**.
 2. Samuel's **Ebenezer** was a **memorial**, a **visual testimony** to God's saving work.
 - a) It acknowledged God has helped them **from the beginning to that very day**.
 - b) God takes care of the **past & the future**, **so why worry about the present?**
God is in control!!!
- G. **We too as Christians need to remember God's benefits, to take a spiritual inventory, to look back over our lives recognizing God always came through no matter how serious the crisis we faced.**

1. Spurgeon, Through poverty, through wealth, through sickness, through health, at home, abroad, on the land, on the sea, in honor, in dishonor, in perplexity, in joy, in trial, in triumph, in prayer, in temptation, *“thus far the Lord has helped us!”*¹
2. During times of **doubt & discouragement** Israel could look at that rock & remember God’s **character & power**. *Raise up ...*
 - a) **Family Eben-azers** - Does your family have physical reminders pointing to times when *“the LORD has helped us”*?
 - (1) Search for ways to pass on to your children (or those in your sphere of influence) a stability which comes from **confidence in God’s providential care?**
 - b) **Work Eben-azers** - What reminders do you have set up at work to encourage you during times of trouble & doubts?
 - c) **Musical Eben-azers** - Let the words of the favorite **old hymn** be such a reminder each time we sing it. (Come Thou Fount) *Here I raise my Ebenezer. Ebenezer, stone of help.*
 - d) *Joni Eareckson Tada* (quadriplegic), *“My wheelchair is my Ebenezer. I’ve raised it up as a memorial to commemorate God’s grace in my life.”*
 - (1) Look for memorials, stones of remembrances in **your** life.
 - (a) Perhaps a **ring**; a pair of **crutches**; a **pebble** you picked up during a journey; a **shell** from an important event near the beach ... **they can be an anchor** to your soul.

H. SECOND STONE MEMORIAL (9-11)

I. (10) The people passed over in haste - not like people in cross-walks (what-up w/that?)

J. **Slide10 JOSHUA’S PROMOTION** (12-24) *Read 12-24*

¹ Spurgeon: Morning & Evening; Dec.29th.

- K. (14) **Joshua's promotion** - following after a powerful leader is just plain hard. You would be tempted to make sure people followed you ... not Joshua. (80 yrs old)
- 1 Pet.5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*
- L. **It is great** when we memorialize the great acts of the Lord. **It's terrible** when those memorials become **idols**.
1. **Each** new generation must learn what **God** has done for His people.
 2. *When you have a living faith in a living God, the past is not dead history, it throbs with living reality.* Wiersbe
- M. Crossing the Jordan is not a picture of **dying**, and going to **heaven**, despite what some **old hymns** say (*I looked over Jordan and what did I see, coming for to carry me home. A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home*).
1. No it illustrates the teaching of Rom.6, **death to the old self-life** and **identification with Christ and resurrection power**.
- N. **But Brian**, nobody but God can see the stones in the middle of the Jordan.
1. But the record bears witness that they are there. **So it is** with the **death** and **res** of Christ, we believe the record, **and thus** experience the miracle.
 2. **The stones on the shore**, remind the people that the old life was buried, and they should *walk in newness of life*.
 3. **Have you crossed the Jordan** **and** set up **your** memorial of faith?