

Week 4- Remember!

Welcome

Series Review/ Israel has been wondering, walking in circles for 40 years

- Often, the best way to see forward is to look back.
- You are not alone, God is always present
- Following Jesus always requires a step of faith
- We have to be careful not to forget

Read: Joshua 4:1-7, 21-24

The greatest threat to your future isn't Jericho, it's forgetting and losing faith. When I forget, I lose the trail, I lose sight of God, I lose the faith to take the next step. **Remember!**

Illustrate: Wedding ring- I never take it off, it is a constant reminder of the promises I made, the woman I love, the family we have built and the future we are building together.

1. It is easier to forget than to remember.

Explain: Joshua knows how easy it is for people to forget.

Quote: What have you done for me lately?

Illustrate: Israel witnesses the 10 plagues, they pass through the Red Sea, the watch God destroy the Egyptian army, they follow a cloud by day and fire at night, and they are eating and mana every day. They stop at Mt. Sini, they hear the voice of God, they see the smoke and fire, Moses goes up the mountain and to receive the ten commandments and when he returns 40 days later, they are having an orgy and worshipping a cow. All those miracles happened over a 90-day period but somehow, they have already forgotten.

- **The greatest display of power in human history did not produce faith**
- **Why does God not do more miracles?** Generally, it does not produce mature faith.

Joshua does not want us to forget!

Argue: Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Illustrate: Build His House Update! 25 years of God's faithfulness.

- 1997, Definition began, we met at Northwest HS
- 2000, HS, we need a building, Bur-Mill Park
- 2007, Bur-Mill Park, we are out of space, Vineyard
- 2017, Vineyard, we are out of space, Hunter Hills
- 2026, Hunter Hills, we are running out of space, Horse Pen Creek Campus
 - o Farm transition, paid off our debt, purchased 36 acres
 - o New site plan, saved 3.3 million dollars.
 - o 7.2 million pledged and 3.5 million given.
 - o Trustees hired a financial advisor, who helps churches create a long-term financial plan and secure a loan.
 - o Renovations here
 - o Invitation to Finish, to step into the water, to place another stone!

2. Remembering is a part of every spiritual practice.

Explain: God pauses the celebration. Israel is ready to move on. God says, stop and remember, take this moment in, let's be careful not to forget. So, God has them build a memorial.

Illustrate: Italy, do not forget! Cathedrals, art, statues

- **The Cross (renovation)**

Argue: Psalm 77

Apply: When we are suffering, when we are afraid, when we are uncertain, we remember!

- **Prayer, worship, Bible, fasting, silence, giving, witnessing**...different forms of remembering.
- **Communion**- in the first century it was bleak, Jesus said, remember. You will be persecuted and killed because of your faith in me, but remember, look back, I am faithful, I am present, I am writing your story. Remember!

3. What we remember determines who we become.

Explain: Why is this true? Whatever you fix your sights upon, whatever you look to, whatever you make your aim determines your future. In ***We Who Wrestle with God***, Jordan Peterson, argues our growth, development and destiny are fundamentally shaped by our aim. When we aim high, when we are attempting to walk in the footsteps of Christ, it shapes our character, our life decision, and creates an abundant destiny. Setting a lower aim, something less than Jesus, is associated with poor outcomes. What are you aiming for?

Illustrate: Dr. Bennett- discipline, education, leadership, writing...He was my role model and shaped my development and future.

Argue: Hebrews 12:2, "Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith." If Christlikeness is our aim, the kingdom is growing in us, God is working through us to bring chaos into order.

Joshua 1:8, remember

Communion- Love, demonstrated through sacrifice. I want to take up my cross. I want to deny myself. I want to change my world. Some of you spend all your time reflecting on your past failures. Listen to Jesus, it is finished! Look to Jesus! Look at His love. Look at His sacrifice!

Apply: What are you looking at, what is your aim?

4. Your memorial builds the faith of those who follow. Verse 21-24

Explain: When your kids ask...why do we go to church, why do we pray before we eat, why do we read the Bible, why do we give money, why, why, why? **Unfortunately, often we do not have an answer.** If the answer is, that is just what we do or that is what we have always done or because I do not want to get on God's bad side. That answer does not build their faith.

- **Why do we go to church?** The church is our spiritual family. It is the community that helps us grow and mature in our faith. Just like a baby cannot grow up without a family we cannot grow up without a church. The church is a gift to me.
- **Why do we pray before we eat?** Pause and thank God. Every good and perfect gift... Prayer is a gift to me.

Monthly Practice: Spiritual Gifts

- **Why do we read the Bible?** The Bible teaches us about God, about man, and about life. The Bible teaches us how to walk with God and have His best. The Bible helps us to understand God's story and to find our place in His story. The Bible helps me not forget all that God has done. The Bible is a gift to me.
- **Why do we give? Giving makes me happy.** Giving gives my job and money purpose. Giving increase my love for Jesus and builds my faith. Giving teaches me to be generous not selfish. Giving helps me control my lust and envy for more. Giving is a gift to me.

Illustrate: Camp Caraway coffee mug, pictures., Bibles, books, wedding picture

Apply: We need to create memorials.

- God is faithful, God is present, God is Trustworthy, Don't forget!

The greatest threat to your future isn't Jericho, it's forgetting and losing faith.

Communion- Romans 8:32, "Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Remember, the blood. See His love! Don't forget.

What are you praying for? God is writing your story. He is faithful, He is present. He is trustworthy, remember!