

FCFTucson.org
Sunday, May 26, 2019
Mission Possible: MEMORIALS everyDAY

TEXT: Joshua 4:1-24

Memorial Day is a time we are intentional about remembering and honoring the men and women that have sacrificially given their lives in military service so that we can be free.

Memorials are also a central aspect of our worship of the Lord Jesus. They are something intended to commemorate & preserve the memory of a person, event, etc.

❖ Some OT Memorials

- Jacob memorialized His encounter & word from God. Gen 28
- Jacob & Laban made a memorial to remind them of the promises made to each other before God. Genesis 31
- Passover was another great memorial. It was instituted the night before Israel left Egypt headed for their Divine Destiny of the Promised Land. Exodus 12:14

❖ His name is a Memorial Exodus 3:14-15

- God said... "I Am" is the memorial He gave to His people for ALL generations.
 - BY MY EVERLASTING NAME Remember ME! That means us today too. In your situation HE still is "I am". Isaiah 7:14

Joshua 4:1-24 – Lessons on MEMORIALS

❖ MEMORIALS are a time of looking back. REMEMBERING What God has done. Joshua 4:7 "These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

- Memorials are ONLY good if you remember WHY they are there. WITHOUT a reason it becomes ritual.
- Reminder of Personal Experience. Joshua 4:6 says... their children would see the stones and ask, "What do these stones mean to you?"
 - We are to TELL OUR STORY. So we will never lose the sense of WONDER of what God has done. What memorials do you have in your life? (places, pictures, mementos)
 - Memorials are a basis of sharing faith. Joshua 4:6-7, 21-23
 - PARENTS: memorials are a way to share faith & the goodness of God with your children.

❖ MEMORIALS are a place of RENEWING personal commitment

- V8-9 While the 12 representatives from each tribe were carrying stones to Canaan's shore, Joshua made a PRIVATE memorial in the middle of the riverbed. It was a personal act of worship.
 - The Jordan supposedly is a very clear river... John Wesley said, this pile of rocks could have been seen from the shore and from a boat of passersby.
 - John Gill said, these are probably the rocks that John the Baptist mentioned in Matthew 3:9, John 1:28 AMP

❖ MEMORIALS are a place of LOOKING FORWARD

- To look forward – To think about what that event, person, or lesson means for TOMORROW. Colossians 2:16-17
 - Because of this event or this person, tomorrow.....
 - Joshua 4:19-20 It was 40 years to the day since Israel left Egypt they, crossed the Jordan and camped in Gilgal which means "the reproach rolled away."
The memorial MARKED a NEW BEGINNING.
- Our memorials are places we align ourselves with God & boldly decided to step out in FAITH and abandon ourselves to HIM.

Jesus gave us an example and a command in Luke 22:19 to remember HIM. We can make FAMILY Meals a Memorial for our LORD!

- ❖ Fellowship – not just for FUN, but to be reminded of our PURPOSE
- ❖ Communion is a memorial to remember Him
 - One you visit as often as you NEED & as often as you WANT.

Memorials remind us of one more thing.

They tell us that the MISSION is POSSIBLE.

❖ Memorials remind us of the JOURNEY for our victory and the sacrifices paid along the way.

- Remember them. And whenever we honor men and women who have sacrificed for us, we need to "I am" tell their stories.
- Remember Christ – Who provided the ultimate sacrifice.

Stuff to ponder

What are memorials in your life?

How do you remember the victories Christ has given you?

How do you remember your crossing of the Jordan?