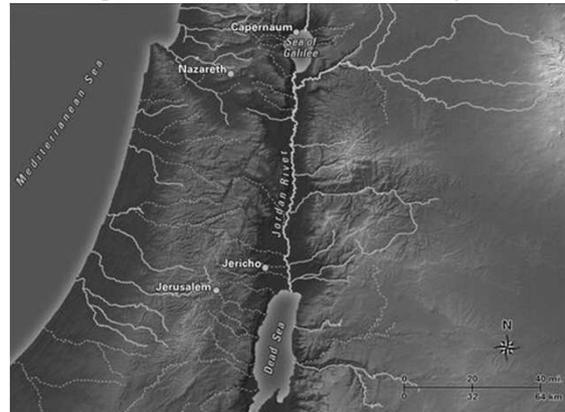


“What Do These Stones Mean To You?”

Joshua 4:1-7

1

Crossing the Jordan River on Dry Ground



2

“What Do These Stones Mean To You?”

The twelve stones gathered from the bed of the Jordan River were to be for a permanent memorial.

“Those twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. He said to the sons of Israel, ‘When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ then you shall inform your children, saying, ‘Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground.’ For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the Lord your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, so that you may fear the Lord your God forever.” (Joshua 4:20-24)

3

“What Do These Stones Mean To You?”

Those twelve stones were more than a memorial. They represented a tremendous teaching opportunity, and a tangible bridge full of meaning from one generation to the next.

As Christians, the opportunity happens every first day of the week with our elements of worship.

We don’t stand with our children, grandchildren, or the children of our brothers and sisters in Christ on the banks of the Jordan River and look at twelve literal stones, but we are blessed with a tremendous teaching opportunity!

4

“What Does the Bible Mean to You?”

We answer this question each first day of the week by our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. What answer are we giving?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

(Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

5

“What Does the Bible Mean to You?”

Are we seen as those who place great value on the word of God?

“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:14-17)

6

“What Does the Bible Mean to You?”

Are we diligent in our studies of God’s word, so that we are able to handle it accurately?

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2:15)

Are we humbly receiving God’s word, implanting it in our hearts so we are obedient to it?

“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”

(James 1:21-22)

7

“What Do These Hymns Mean To You?”

Are we obeying God’s command to sing to one another and to Him?

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord ...”

(Ephesians 5:18-19)

Are we singing with thankfulness, teaching and admonishing one another with the word of Christ?

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” **(Colossians 3:16)**

8

“What Does Prayer Mean To You?”

Are we praying as we should, giving thanks?

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” **(Colossians 3:17)**

Are we praying for one another, and for those in authority?

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

9

“What Does Prayer Mean To You?”

Are we communicating with God?

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

(Philippians 4:6)

Are we continually rejoicing and praying, thanking God for all of His abundant blessings?

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” **(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**

10

“What Does the Preaching of God’s Word Mean to You?”

Are we listening to the Gospel message and the call to repent?

“The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

(Luke 11:32)

Are we then sharing the Gospel message?

“But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.” **(Acts 8:12)**

11

“What Does The Lord’s Invitation Mean to You?”

Do we recognize the burden of sin and come to Jesus for rest?

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” **(Matthew 11:28-30)**

Are we coming to Jesus for the water of life?

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.” **(Revelation 22:17)**

12

“What Does This Unleavened Bread and Fruit of the Vine Mean to You?”

Do we remember the sacrifice of Jesus for us?

“And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’

And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.’” (Luke 22:19-20)

Do we partake in a worthy manner, examining ourselves?

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:27-28)

13

“What Does the Opportunity to Sacrifice for the Lord and His Work Mean to You?”

Do we our present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice?

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

Are we giving Him the praise and thanks He deserves?

“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

14

Our Example Reveals Our Priorities, and Not Just on the Lord’s Day!

We don’t have to wait for Sunday morning for those questions to be relevant.

We answer similar questions every single day by our actions, interactions, and reactions at home, at work, in our neighborhoods, and our communities.

15

“What Does Marriage and Family Mean to You?”

Do we recognize God’s divine plan for marriage as one man and one woman for life?

“And He answered and said, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” (Matthew 19:4-6)

Do we hold God’s plan for marriage in honor?

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4)

16

“What Does Marriage and Family Mean to You?”

Do we love our husbands and wives as we should?

“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.” (Ephesians 5:22-24)

“So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church ...” (Ephesians 5:28-29)

17

“What Does Marriage and Family Mean to You?”

Do we love our parents as we should?

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.” (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Do we love our children as we should?

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.” (Colossians 3:21)

18

“What Do Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ Mean to You?”

Do we love our brethren as we should?

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

“This I command you, that you love one another.” (John 15:17)

19

“What Do Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ Mean to You?”

Do we love our brethren as we should?

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.” (Romans 12:10-13)

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

20

“What Does Hospitality Mean To You?”

Are we practicing hospitality?

“Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

(Hebrews 13:1-2)

“Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint.”

(1 Peter 4:8-9)

21

“What Does Patience Mean to You?”

Are we patient with one another?

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

(Colossians 3:12-13)

“We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

22

“What Does Patience Mean to You?”

Are we patient when wronged?

“The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

(2 Timothy 2:24-26)

23

“What Does Forgiveness Mean to You?”

Are we willing to forgive those who sin against us?

“Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.” (Luke 17:3-4)

“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

24

“What Does Forgiveness Mean to You?”

Are we willing to forgive those who sin against us?

“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.” (Mark 11:25)

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

25

“What Does Forgiveness Mean to You?”

Are we thankful for the blood of Christ through which we have forgiveness?

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ...” (Ephesians 1:7)

Are we grateful to God for rescuing us from darkness, forgiving us of our sins?

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14)

26

“What Does Forgiveness Mean to You?”

Are we walking in the Light of Christ?

“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” (1 John 1:5-10)

27

“What Does Love Mean to You?”

Are we constantly aware of God’s love?

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 NKJV)

Do we acknowledge that God sacrificed His only begotten Son to save us?

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (Romans 5:8-9)

28

“What Does Love Mean to You?”

Do we practice our love toward God?

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3)

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16)

29

“What Does Love Mean to You?”

Do we practice our love toward one another?

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.” (1 John 4:7-12)

30

“What Does Love Mean to You?”

Practicing the love that God commands is referenced by Jesus in the judgment scene:

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.” (Matthew 25:31-33)

31

“What Does Love Mean to You?”

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” (Matthew 25:34-40)

32

“What Does Love Mean to You?”

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:41-46)

33

“What Do These Stones Mean To You?”

The twelve stones in Joshua 4:1-7 were more than a memorial. They represented a tremendous teaching opportunity, and a tangible bridge full of meaning from one generation to the next.

The next generation continues to notice, learn, and ask questions. “What does _____ mean to you?” Are you ready for that question?

Ready or not, **you are giving an answer**. Does the answer you would like to give harmonize with your daily thoughts, words, and habits? Only you and God know.

34

“What Do These Stones Mean To You?”

Our lives should be a daily memorial that points the next generation(s) to the God worth remembering and serving today!

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:11-14)

35

HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL

Hear the word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

36