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Lord's Day Morning  
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The Lord's Supper

## “Do This In Remembrance of Me” Joshua 4:1-8; I Corinthians 11:23-34

### Introduction

If you've not been attending our evening services there are a couple of things I wanted to say. First, you ought to come. It's a pretty simple service. We spend some extra time singing, which is a great highlight for many. We have an extended prayer time where you can explain things you want us to pray about and we open it up for everyone to pray. And then we are working through the Larger Catechism. It's just a meat and potatoes kind of study. Nothing flashy, just a simple study of various topics in the Bible. But our evenings together are worship times and therefore they are important. So I just wanted to take a minute and urge you to come.

Second, right now we've just started a study through the Ten Commandments. And in this study we are looking at both the positive and negative aspects of each command. In other words, what does each command require of us and what does each one forbid. In the First Commandment, which we are looking at now, one of the things we saw last week is that the commandment *you shall have no other gods before me*, forbids you to be forgetful.

If you are going to be faithful to have no other gods before God, then you have to remember. And the truth is we are prone to forget. How many times have you said in the last week or two *I don't remember?*

Well God wants us to remember. And he has given us certain things – the Bible calls them memorials – to help us remember what is really important. Today we are going look at the different memorials God has given us so that we might better learn how to remember the power and the works and the glory of God.

### [Joshua 4:1-8 & I Corinthians 11:23-34]

A memorial is anything that acts as a reminder of something significant in our lives. Your wedding ring is memorial. Pictures that you take are memorials of times gone by. If you write a journal, it stands as a memorial of your thoughts and reflections on life at the time you wrote it.

God has given us His own set of memorials. The verb form of the word memorial in the Old Testament means *to prick or pierce or penetrate*. So a memorial is little bit like an alarm clock; it wakes us up to think about something that we might otherwise be prone to forget.

When we look in the Scriptures there are four different kinds of God given memorials.

#### 1. The Bible

In Exodus 17 the Israelites were just coming out of the land of Egypt when they came to a place called Rephidim. Two significant things happen at this place. Both of them threatened the life of the young nation. First, they ran out of water. Second, they were attacked by an enemy. In the first instance, the people complained against Moses and God and failed to trust Him. God miraculously provide for them when Moses struck the rock. All the people were refreshed and delivered by the hand of God.

But no sooner were they well watered than the Amalekites came and fought against them. But again, the Lord powerfully delivered them, in spite of the fact that they had no military experience or skill.

But the important thing for us to notice, in light of our study today is what happened before they left Rephidim. In Exodus 17:14 God said to Moses, *Write this in the book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.* You see, while the memory of Amalek might well be blotted out, God never wanted His people to forget the power of His might and His wonderful acts of saving the people. So God gave them a memorial in the form of what would become the Bible

The Word of God stands today as the most constant and faithful reminder to us and the world, that God is the Lord of history – that He is the controller of all that has been. That kind of memory helps us to trust him now and in the future.

## 2. The Name of God.

Isaiah 26:8 says *O Lord, we wait for Thee; Thy memorial name is the desire of our soul.* God says that His very name is to remind us of who He is. If you've ever done a study of the names of God, you know what I mean.

- Elohim – sovereign, supreme God
- Jehovah (LORD) YHWH – personal, covenant making, living God. I AM WHO I AM.
- El-Shaddai – Almighty God; power
- Adonai – Master, Lord
- Jehovah-Jirah – the Provider Lord
- Jehovah –Shalom – Lord of peace
- Jehovah-Rophe – Healing Lord

Why does God have so many names? So that we might know Him better. And when we read and remember His names we are led to give Him glory. Listen to Psalm 30:4. *Sing praise to the Lord you his godly ones, And give thanks to His holy,* (the Hebrew says) **memorial** name.

### 3. The Great Acts of God.

The great stories and acts of God down through history are like direction markers for us. They are the things we recall and retell time and again to strengthen our faith. In the Old Testament, sometimes God marked these events in some physical, outward way so that they would never be forgotten.

That's what we read about this morning in Joshua 4. God had promised to bring his people into the Promised Land. And in spite of lots of trials and great periods of unfaithfulness on their part, God had fulfilled his promise.

In chapter 3 God had miraculously dried up the Jordan River bed, holding back the water so the people could cross over. It was one of the most astonishing events and miracles ever performed by the Lord. It confirmed His faithfulness. It fulfilled His promises. It demonstrated His love and mercy.

Now He commanded them to construct a visible memorial. Actually two memorials. One was to be built in the camp. Twelve stones were to be erected, one for each tribe, to stand as a visible reminder of what God had done. The other was to be erected in the river, invisible, except during the droughts – to be talked about for the purpose of keeping the significance of the event before the people.

But what exactly were they remembering? Was it just the parting of a river? Was it just the

moving of a people from one land to another? No! It was much more than that. It was a memorial to the saving grace of God. It was a reminder that God had taken care of everything that separates man from God. The river represented death and judgment. It barred man's entrance into the Promised Land – into life, into heaven, if you will.

But through that one miracle we have a picture of God removing the penalty of sin. The picture of redemption, which began with their deliverance from the Egyptians and passing through Red Sea, was now completed as they entered into the Land of milk and honey.

This was a picture of salvation. A foreshadowing of what would be made perfect and complete when God performed another miracle hundreds of years later by raising Jesus Christ from the dead! What a great occasion for a memorial – the salvation of God, the redemption of His people.

#### 4. Means of Grace

When you read through the descriptive laws in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, you'll find that God made provision for people to bring meal offerings, grain offerings, financial offerings, and certain sacrificial offerings that were called memorials to the Lord.

But the most important and well-known memorial in the Old Testament was the Passover. In Exodus 12, when the Passover actually took place when the angel of death passed over the nation of Israel, God said *Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.*

Whenever God gave a memorial there were three things He intended to take place. Look at the

end of Joshua 4. Verses 20-24 say *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."*

1. They provide a means to bring instruction to our children.
2. They provide a testimony to the world. (*That all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty*)
3. They remind us to fear and trust in the Lord.

We don't celebrate the Passover anymore. But we do celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a memorial. Jesus said, *Do this in remembrance of Me*. A few weeks ago we studied how the Lord's Supper is a means of grace. Today, as we come to the Table, I want us to realize that it is a great memorial.

This is a particular meal with signs and symbols that are designed to pierce and penetrate our hearts and minds. We celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ every Lord's Day. The Lord's Day itself is actually a memorial. **Remember the Lord's Day to keep it holy.** The first day of the week is the Day of the Resurrection. There are several memorials. When we partake of the Lord's Supper we have another way that God points us to the greatest and mightiest act of all of history. When Jesus died on the cross, He died to take away your

sins. When He rose from the dead on the third day, He defeated death and sin and finished the work that saves us and brings us into the Promised Land. May the Lord bless this memorial meal to us as we remember Him.