

# **BECAUSE YOU ASKED**



Josh. 4:1-7

*What questions should we have asked our parents?*

Josh. 4:1 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,  
2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,  
3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.  
4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:  
5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:  
6 That this may be a sign among you, *that* **when your children ask** *their fathers* in time to come, saying, What *mean* ye by these stones?  
7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

- What is the foundation of your worldview?
- Why didn't you challenge me about developing such a worldview?
- How did you know that God was real?
- What did you see God do that captured your heart, and increased your faith?
- Did you ever walk by faith and see God use you for His glory? How?
- Did you ever consider how God might be working in my life?
- Did you ever wonder who I am?



## I. A MISSION COMPLETED, Josh. 4:1

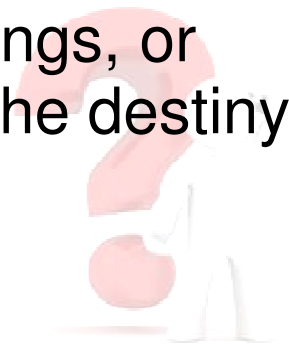
### A. The Obstacle Faced

Josh. 3:15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (**for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,**)

The obstacles of life are opportunities to learn – about our self, our reaction to problems, and more importantly, our relationship with God.

Challenges are opportunities, often clouded by doubt and wrapped in frustration, which can lead to greater blessings, or greater misery. Our choice of reaction will determine the destiny of our decision.

### B. The Objective of Faith



Josh. 3:16 That the waters which came down from above stood *and* rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that *is* beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, *even* the salt sea, failed, *and* were cut off: **and the people passed over right against Jericho.**

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Heb. 11:1 Now **faith is** the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Rom. 15:3 For **even Christ pleased not himself**; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

Jn. 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**

## II. A MEMORY CHERISHED

### A. The Experience of Faith

In order to have experiences to pass on to our children, we must put action to our faith!

Jas. 2:14 What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ...

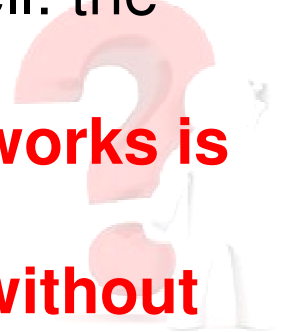
17 Even **so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith by my works.**

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead? ...**

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**



## B. The Example to Follow

Gal. 5:6 “...**faith which worketh by love.**”

Deut. 10:12 And now, Israel, **what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,**

Lu. 10:27 And he answering said, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,** and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy strength**, and with **all thy mind**; and thy neighbour as thyself.

## III. A MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTED

### A. The Reminder of the Past



Josh. 4:2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,

3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.

4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

## B. The Responsibility of the Present

Josh. 4:6 That this may be a sign among you, *that* **when your children ask** *their fathers* in time to come, saying, What *mean* ye by these stones?

7 Then **ye shall answer them**, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.



- Ask questions that will generate curiosity.
- Ask questions that will cultivate reasoning.
- Ask questions that will cause more questions.

### C. The Repetition for the Posterity

Deut. 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart:**

7 And thou **shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ...

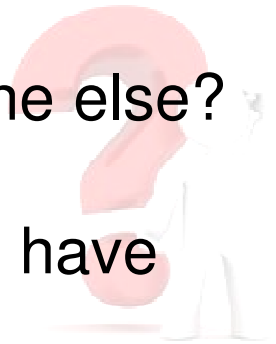
20 And **when thy son asketh thee in time to come**, saying, What *mean* the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?

21 **Then thou shalt say unto thy son**, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:

Prov. 17:6 Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

## Conclusion

- *What questions should we have asked our parents?*
- What is your relationship with God?
- How well do you know the Bible? How often do you read it? How often do you study it? What is your favorite book of the Bible? What is your favorite Bible verse? Who is your favorite person in the Bible (other than Jesus)?
- How much time do you spend in prayer and fellowship with God?
- How often do you share Scriptural truth with someone else?
- Are you sure I will see you in Heaven, that we might have fellowship for all of eternity?



Psa. 31:23 **O love the LORD, all ye his saints:** *for* the LORD preserveth **the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.**

24 Be of good courage, and **he shall strengthen your heart**, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Deut. 32:7 Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: **ask thy father, and he will shew thee**; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

By God's grace and His help, let's build good memories, for all of our loved ones, to be enjoyed long after we are gone.

