



MEMORIES INTO MONUMENTS

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Introduction:

This week Bob brings a new message titled '**Memories into Monuments**'. How well do you remember things? Do you need reminders to prompt your memory? In this message Bob leads us to examine how God used 'stones of remembrance' to help the Israelites remember His blessings and all that He provided. When you think of all that God has done is it easy for you to remember, even when you are facing new challenges & trials? What's an Ebenezer anyway and how could monuments help you to remember?

Questions:

1. What's the definition of the word remember? What things help you to recall, or bring back to conscious thought important details you learn or information that you want to retain? Why is it important for remembering to be more than nostalgic?
2. What is an Ebenezer, where did that name/term come from? How could stones help the Israelites to recall God's enduring help and grace? How could stones help them to remember God's provision? **1 Samuel 7:12**
3. If God had promised an amazing gift to the Israelites, what was required for them to receive the gift? What instructions did God give them to 'prepare themselves' (sanctify)? Why did that require a change of their heart posture? What was wrong with their attitude? Do you ever prepare your heart for God to do something in your life? **Joshua 1:1-2**

4. What made crossing 'this' Jordan (right in front of them) such a challenge for the Israelites? How could keeping their distance (1,000 yards) from the Ark of the Covenant, allow them to see what God was doing in front of them to make crossing the Jordan possible at this most dangerous time of the year? What happened when the priests did what God had told Joshua and took a step into the river? **Joshua 3:13-15**

5. What did God tell Joshua to do that would help the Israelites to remember what He had done for them at the Jordan? What happened when the priests left the Jordan River? Why was it important for them to remember, what would happen when they shared in the future what God had done? **Joshua 4:1-24**

6. God wants you to remember:
 - a. **God's Faithfulness to you in the past** - why do you need to remember this? Do you easily forget & begin to doubt? How could a reminder of what God has done help you to face new circumstances in your life?
 - b. **God's Faithfulness to you Today and in the Future** - how can that help you to take a step when you are faced with trials and uncertainty? Can you trust Him when you can't see where you are going and He calls you to step forward into the unknown **Joshua 21:45; 1 Thessalonians 5:25**
 - c. **God's Command to share His Faithfulness** - the stones were a reminder to the Israelites to share what God had done for them so that the next generations would know and fear the Lord. What reminders do you have of God's faithfulness? How can these Ebenezer's encourage you to share what God has done in your life? **1 Peter 2:5**
 - d. **God's who gets all the Glory** - What was the message of the stones for the Israelites? Who deserves the credit for what you have in this life? **Zechariah 4:6**

7. If God wants your obedience, for you to trust Him, what's your 'step in the water'? Is your life a reminder of what God has done? Maybe it's not about:
 - a. Happiness but Holiness?
 - b. Obstinance but Obedience?
 - c. Convenience but Character?
 - d. Just Praising in Prosperity but embracing Purpose in the Pain?

- e. Anxiety but Anticipation?
- f. What Ebenezer/Stones of Remembrance can you build to help you remember all that He has done and then be prepared to share so others will know?

Key takeaway: We can all build an Ebenezer (virtual or physical remembering stones) to help us to remember all the times God has shown us wisdom, guidance & mercy. Taking time to reflect on this can provide fuel for you to move forward in faith and share what God has done. What are your stones of remembrance?

Summary:

- Remember: To bring information back into conscious thought, retain knowledge, or honor someone
- Ebenezer - from a Hebrew word meaning stone of help, a reminder of God's blessings & gifts
- To get the gift of the Promised Land, the Israelites had to take a step of faith, they had to go get the gift
- Preparing yourself required a modified attitude (heart posture), as well as distance (to stay clear of God's presence)
- The Jordan river was overflowing at its peak, a raging current they would have to cross (normally impossible)
- What did God tell the people to do that would help them to remember what He had done for them at the Jordan?
- God wants us to remember:
 - God's faithfulness to us in the past
 - God's faithfulness to us today & in the future
 - God's command to share His faithfulness
 - God's who gets all the glory