

Joshua 21:43-45 GILGAL

⁴³ So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. ⁴⁴ The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. ⁴⁵ Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

PRAY!

Well today is the day of the most important football game of the year – When the season started this is what was on everyone’s mind.

A) This is what the goal they were aiming at – **TOO BE PLAYING IN THIS GAME – ON THIS DAY IN NJ – SUPER BOWL 2014**

B) How many of you like Football? – I like watching football – any level

1) **Pewee – High School – College – pros.**

C) If you have ever been to a HS or College football game – you have seen it

1) Usually happens at Halftime – Cheer squad is doing their routine. –

D) Comes to the point where they build that pyramid – bodies on top of bodies until the lone cheerleader is lifted into the air! **1 leg - arms out – 20ft high/ holds it**

**HOW DOES SHE DO THAT
HOW DOES SHE HAVE SUCH BALANCE?**

A) Balance is part of it – but the real secret is focus. –

B) She is trained to pick one object in that stadium –

FOCUS ON IT!

C) She is lifted her eyes are focused on that object that point & that is what **KEEPS HER CENTERED!**

We have been studying here in the book of Joshua – how after the 40 yrs of wandering in the Wilderness – the children of Israel – promise land.

A) This is their big game – dreaming about this – time to go in and possess the land – time to go in win the trophy.

B) There are going to battles – set backs – but we here in our text – they came through – **THE LORD CAME THROUGH.**

1) They had successfully possessed the land – drove out their opponents

V.44b again “the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. ⁴⁵ Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.”

C) This week – Cities of Refuge – Instructions for living

But there is one thing that we have not talked about on Sundays or Wednesdays in our study of Joshua – that is I believe really subtle – but really important.

A) Just like the Cheerleader on the top of the Pyramid has a place or a point of Reference to keep her centered –

B) SO TOO THE children of Israel had a place that helped them **stay centered** and helped them prepare for the battles in the land

1) That place was named Gilgal.

C) Gilgal was the place where the Children of Israel camped during **the time of Conquest** in the land of Canaan.

1) They would go out to battle – but they would always return to Gilgal.

D) After Conquering Jericho – back to Gilgal, after the defeat at Ai – back to Gilgal

1) Throughout the conquest of the Southern and Northern Kingdoms they always returned to this place called Gilgal.

E) Jump back to Ch.10

V. 6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us.”

⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. **⁸ And the LORD said to Joshua**, “Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you.” **⁹ Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.**

Joshua goes out – battle – Southern Kings – Victorious /

¹⁵ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Northern Kings – Victorious

⁴³ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Gilgal was home base – But it was more than that – A) because a few things happened there that were essential to preparing them for Battle

B) AND Keeping them centered in the FIGHT!

C) I want us to consider today – four significant things that happened **at Gilgal and how Gilgal** is a picture of the Cross.

D) Which is our place for staying centered in the Christian life – everything goes back to Calvary!

E) So if you are taking notes -

#1 Gilgal was a place of Remembrance! { BACK TO CH.4

A) After the Children of Israel Crossed the Jordan River – God instructed them to Build a Memorial here at Gilgal.

V.1 And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: ² “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, ³ and command them, saying, ‘Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’

V.19 Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth *day* of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. ²¹ Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What *are* these stones?’

²² then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; ²³ for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, ²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

These Stones were to make a monument of
REMEMBRANCE /

A) Every time that **they came to Gilgal** they were to see this stack of stones & it was to be a memorial of God's Power & Provision

B) Each was to be a teaching moment for Generations to come – **How God had delivered them from Egypt and brought them into the land.**

1) Teach your Children – tell them – MEN

C) Throughout their conquest of the land – go out to Battle – **come back to Gilgal** – Every Victory – and after their defeat at Ai-

1) See that memorial – see those 12 stones

D) God knows we need memorials – We are prone to Forget

Two elderly women in a church were discussing the problems of growing older. One commented, "The worst thing is when your memory starts to go. *I've known you all my life, and I can't think of your name. What is it?"*

The second lady thought for a moment and said, *"Do you need an answer right now?"*

A) WE ARE FORGETFUL- GOD HAS TO REMIND US OFTEN.

B) 2 Peter 3:1 "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder)"

C) Stir up your minds by way of Reminder:
We need it!

That is why I journal!

I remember a time a few yrs back really struggling w/ some things that were happening here in the Church

A) I Didn't understand what the Lord was doing { Down at the beach

B) As I sat there having this Conversation w/ the Lord I a looking at the ocean - the tide coming in & going out -

1) thought I don't understand how & why the water doesn't just keep coming. **THE LORD SAYS IT IS ME!!!!**

C) Then I thought about how an airplane gets off the ground & actually flies

1) I don't fully understand how that happens - yet I go & get on an airplane w/ out even thinking about it & fly to the other side of the world.

I thought about as I sat there on that beach & looked at all that sand - and remembered that in God's word He says **His thoughts for me out number the sand**

A) I surely don't understand that but I want to rest in that – **God said to me Rob Rest** – trust – I have it under control

B) Sometimes that is what God says to us - *Don't try to figure it out in your finite brain - Just believe it - trust me*

C) Paul said that when we do that he gives us *a peace that surpasses understanding.*

1) So often we seek a peace that is w/ understanding –

2) yet God brings a Peace that surpasses understanding

Well I went home and wrote that down in my journal – Memorial

And after some time – saw what God did – I wrote that down too

A) When I was traveling I started carrying my journal – reading on plane

Aa) A couple of yrs later – going thru another trial – where I was wondering **what on earth are you doing Lord**

B) On a trip reading my journal I came to that entry – from a few yrs back – **Reminded & Refreshed & renewed again**

C) **So Journaling is a good way to set up a Memorial.**

1) Abe – Built a tree – Musician WRITE A SONG – others – TATOO

D) Something that helps you remember – becomes a point of Reference for you and a teaching moment for others!

On the night before he was to go to the Cross – Jesus took a loaf of Bread and Broke it – this is Broken for you. Cup my blood.... Poured out

A) As often as you do this – **DO IT IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.**

B) God has given us communion as a memorial – 1) Reminds us of the Cross where Jesus suffered and died.

C) God did that because we all need to keep coming back to Calvary!

1) Calvary is our Gilgal – it is the place where it all started

Hymn

**At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!**

Mommy – How much do you love me? – I love you this much. – Big Hug

A) I asked God how much he loved me – Spread his arms and died – **THIS MUCH**

B) It is at the Cross – at Calvary – we are reminded that God loved us **THIS MUCH.**

C) Communion – God's reminder – Giant Hug – **THIS MUCH**

1) **JESUS DIED BECAUSE HE LOVED YOU!**

D) Don't speak at youth camps much any more – **One time Jr. High 11yrs old**

1) Can't get over – Jesus paid the price for all my sins -

#1 Gilgal was a place of Remembrance!

#2 Gilgal was a place of Renunciation! { Ch 5

A)The Children of Israel are camped at Gilgal – God says – Joshua before you go into Battle – You need to circumcise all the soldiers.

B)They hadn't been circumcised yet – No wonder Ch.1 – Be strong and Courageous four times -

1)God was going to call Joshua to do some hard things - IMAGINE

C)**Circumcision was the mark of God's pp! – Covenant with Abe**

1)It spoke of being CONSECRATED TO GOD!

But Circumcision was symbolic of the cutting away of the Flesh of renouncing the flesh.

A)Not going to live by my flesh or for my flesh anymore.

B)So too the Cross for us is not just a place of Remembrance (Remember God's awesome love.)

1) but it is also a place of Renunciation-

C)It is as I realize How much I am loved by God – that I decide – **I want to live for him.**

1)NT speaks of a Circumcision of the heart – Our hearts **MARKED FOR GOD!**

Any mature believer comes to the Cross and is aware that Jesus calls us to Deny ourselves – our flesh- pick up our Cross and Follow him.

A)Live lives that are completely dedicated to Christ.

B)It is this idea that led the Apostle Paul to write these words in

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

C)As a Christian – I have died to my old ways of living to please my flesh

1)Now living in the flesh – but not for the flesh – Living by faith now seeking to please Jesus.

D)Romans 8:5,6 **“to be Fleshly minded is death** - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

E)It is at the Cross – Reminded – Living for my flesh – my flesh has been crucified with Christ –

NEW MINDSET

1)SETTING MY MIND ON THE THINGS SPIRIT!

Alan Redpath tells the Story in his book Victorious Christian Living – Commentary of Joshua – one of the best –

A)It is there that he tells the story of a missionary girl who returned from China – She was telling a group at her Church her testimony.

B)She said that before she went to China a friend of hers said- “what on earth are you going to bury yourself in china for? You will never make it – you will be dead in six months. “

{**Cheerful advice to give to a missionary.**

C)This was the missionary girls response: **“My dear friend, I want you to know that five years ago I died. When Jesus called me to China, I bowed my head at the cross and died to everything except God and China.”**

D)That should be the testimony of all of us if we are maturing in Christ –

1) That xx yrs ago – I died to everything except God and _____ mom, Sunday school teacher, fireman - whatever it is he has called you to do or be

E) Where is your sphere of Influence ? Living for Jesus or the flesh.

“The Deepest, the most real, and the most wonderful meaning of Calvary is that not only did Jesus die there for my sins, but I died with Him and in Him. Without a real spiritual revelation to your heart of this, you will never be a victorious Christian.”

Redpath

So Gilgal was a place of

#1 Gilgal was a place of Remembrance!

#2 Gilgal was a place of Renunciation!

#3 Gilgal was a place for Renewal!

See after the men were circumcised here in Joshua 5 – the people of Israel did something else – They Celebrated Passover.

V.10 Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day.

This was a time of Renewal for the People of Israel with the Lord!

A) The Lord had instructed in Exodus 12:48 that no uncircumcised person could celebrate Passover.

B) So this whole 2nd generation had abandoned this feast altogether – because they were not circumcised.

C) But here at Gilgal after Consecrating their Flesh – the Feast of Passover was renewed.

1) Gilgal was a place of Renewal.

So too is the Cross – We all have those times where our flesh gets the best of us.

A) We do things we shouldn't do and we say things we shouldn't say.

B) The Flesh that we have crucified rears its ugly head – what do we do then.

1) Back to the Cross –

C) Jesus died for that Sin – 1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins (say the same as – not excuses, not rationalizations. “If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us of all our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

D) See the Cross is also a place of Renewal and Re-commitment – And perhaps you are here today – been living for the flesh.

1) Started as a Slip – turned into a lifestyle a habit -

E) Exhort you today: Plead with You – turn from the Sin – turn back to your savior – Confess – tell him – I am Wrong – FONZY

1) Let him forgive you and Renew you and Refresh you – today!

So Gilgal was a place of

#1 Gilgal was a place of Remembrance!

#2 Gilgal was a place of Renunciation!

#3 Gilgal was a place for Renewal!

#4 Gilgal was a place of Revelation

Joshua 5

¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “*Are You for us or for our adversaries?*”

¹⁴ So He said, “No, {Interesting response – no – wrong question- not am I with you but are you with me}

¹⁴ So He said, “No, but *as* Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”

¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand *is* holy.” And Joshua did so.

Christophony: Worship accepted!

Now why do you think that Jesus appeared to Joshua here at Gilgal as a Commander of the Army of the Lord? – Not Melchizedek. Burning Bush

A) Why a Commander? –

B) He wanted Joshua to realize – first Battle –

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD!

C) Jesus wanted Joshua to know that He was the Key to their Victories

1) Jesus was the real Commander.

So too we must realize that the Cross was not just the site of the **greatest Sacrifice and the greatest display of Love**

A) The Cross was also the site of the **Greatest Military Victory** the world has every scene.

B) Jesus **WON THE WAR FOR MANKIND!**

C) Speaking of Christ work on the Cross – Paul the Apostle declared this in Colossians 2:15 “**Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**”

Paul loved drawing pictures from Roman Military battles – this was one.

A) Romans would conquer a Community – they would take the king or general – **Disarm – Strip down Naked.**

B) Rope Horse – Parade – Publically – Public Skeptical –

1) This used to be your King – this is who used to be the one who ruled you.

2) **NO MORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** – Defeated and Disarmed.

C) Peter – Satan – Roaring Lion – but in the Life of the Believer – Declawed and Defanged

1) His weapon of Choice is Fear Intimidation & DOUBT

THE CROSS IS A PLACE OF REVELATION!

A) The battle belongs to the Lord - **THE ENEMY HAS BEEN DEFEATED**

B) Jesus **ALREADY** won the war so that we **CAN WIN THE BATTLES.**

C) We **FIGHT NOT FOR VICTORY – BUT FROM VICTORY!**

D) Ephesians 6:10 **Be strong in the Lord and in the Power of His might.**

E) Romans 8 – **More than Conquerors through Him who loves us!**

So today – Communion – Cross

A) **Remembrance** – YOU ARE LOVED THIS MUCH

B) Nothing you can do to change that!

Renunciation

A) Bring your Flesh – Change me

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

RENEWAL

A) Recommitment – Come back –

REVELATION

A) BATTLE BELONGS TO JESUS

B) He wants you to be Victorious –