

SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

Joshua 5:1–15

1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

2 At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

4 Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. 5 All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. 6 The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. 8 And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

9 Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

15 The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

- 1. The work of God is confounding.**
 - 2. Our response to God is important.**
 - 3. God provides for what is now and what is next.**
 - 4. God is always forming/preparing us.**
-

GROUP DISCUSSION

Please take a moment to read the passage of Scripture together as a group.

- In your own words, how would you describe the other kings' reaction to the news of the miracle at the Jordan river in verse 1?
- In verse 2, God commands Joshua to circumcise all the men of Israel. What do verses 2-7 tell us about why it is important to circumcise the “sons of Israel” at this time? What does this show us about the different generations' obedience (or lack of it)?
 - How does this translate to our lives now?
- Verses 10-12 describe the Israelites' celebration of their first Passover in Canaan and eating of the fruit of the land. Looking back over how God provided manna and quail to sustain them in the wilderness, how is God's miraculous provision tied to the Israelites' trust and obedience?
 - What does the end of the daily miracle of manna and quail once they enter the Promised Land teach God's people about God's provision and promises?
 - What might God be teaching you in this?
- Read verses 13-15. How does Joshua respond to the appearance of “the commander of the Lord's army”? How might you express a greater reverence for God in your personal life?