

## Remembering the Work of God

Judges 2:6-10

In the foyer of a small country church hung a list of brave soldiers from that church who had passed away in military duty. Six-year-old Jimmy asked his grandfather what the list was all about. The grandfather respectfully replied, "Jimmy these are all men who have died in the service." From that day forward, Jimmy thought it was risky to attend church. Tomorrow is Memorial Day, it's a day in which we remember those brave men and women who have died in the service of our nation. We realize that this day has been overtaken by sales, cookouts, and a day off from work. If we're not careful, our children will forget the reason for Memorial Day. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Army Private James F. McClamrock was rushed to the hospital at Joint Base Balise, 40 miles from Baghdad Iraq. I was not the hospital chaplain during that deployment, but every Chaplain conducted short rotations in the hospital. I was relieving Chaplain Wade Jensen for a few hours. When the dignified remains of the fallen come to the base, the place stops with respect. I provided a prayer for the family of Private McClamrock as his body was carried from the Blackhawk helicopter. We saluted in unison, and then in a few days we conducted a memorial service with this display you see here. Private McClamrock's helmet, boots, dog tags, and weapon all make up what we call the battlefield cross. We honor them because of their sacrifice. It's important because they've taken our place so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have. I didn't know Pvt. McClamrock, but later found out that his father was a Presbyterian Pastor. James had seen soldiers coming and going while he worked at the airport in Raleigh NC and felt that he had a duty to uphold, so he enlisted in the Army.

In the text we examine today, we see the death of the warrior Joshua, a courageous leader who had conquered the land of the Canaanites, the land in which God had promised His people. Joshua was careful to establish memorials along the way that showed the victorious hand of God. Listen to Joshua 4:6-9 ***"that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever." And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the Lord told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there. And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day.*** So Joshua was great about reminding the people about the work of God, but look at verse 10 of Judges chapter 2. The next generation did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. How can we remember the work of God so that the next generation does not forget? Here is the real world progression of forgetting! Grandpa- Church is essential, Dad- Church is optional, Son- Church is unnecessary, Grandson- "Jesus who?"

To foster remembering...

**1. Teach (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)** The most important commandment in all of Jewish Scripture is: *"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."* Jesus said that was the first and great commandment. And every Jew knew, just like I want every one of you to know, what comes next in this great text. *"And these words which I command you shall be upon your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your children."* Listen to Deuteronomy 4:9: *"Take heed and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children."* We see this again in Deuteronomy 11:18-19: *"You shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul . . . And you shall teach them to your children."* John Piper says, "God's design for the preservation of historical revelation is the family." Within the Christian community the main link between what this generation knows and what the next generation will know is the link between parent and child. Joel 1:3 puts it in a nugget: *"Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."* We are to teach the next generations to remember the works of God!

**2. Train (1 Timothy 4:7)** *"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;"* How do we train for the purpose of godliness? The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to equip us for God's work. Listen to 2 Timothy 3:15-16 *"and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,"* and 2 Timothy 2:15 *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."* The local church helps us train. Hebrews 10:24-25 conveys this: *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* If you really want to endure when the times are tough you, have to train!

**3. Tell (2 Timothy 2:2)** *"and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."* And Romans 10:14-15, 17 *"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"* Romans 10:17 *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* The great commission in Matthew 28:19-20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* How do we help the next generations to not forget the awesome God we serve? **1. Teach the works of God. 2. Train in the ways of God. 3. Tell others the well of God.**