

/Let us begin the fourth lecture on Joshua. / The passage for today is 4:1-24. / Chapter 4 is about the commemoration among the Israelites for crossing the Jordan River. / Although it was a tough journey, by God's grace, they were able to cross the river.

/Yet, we humans tend to forget even after experiencing God's grace. / This is the reason why God told Joshua to set up twelve stones as a memorial. / In today's time, we believers experience God's grace. / But we forget about it sooner or later.

/This is the reason why God told the Israelites to set up a memorial / as a remembrance of His grace. / It was also to witness His grace to their descendants after generations and generations. /The descendants will ask what the twelve stones mean.

/It is a remembrance of God's grace, which made the crossing of the Jordan River possible. / It is going to teach them that God is alive. / It is meant for the children to serve God all their lives. / Verses 1-8 / are about taking the twelve stones from the river and putting them up in the land of Canaan.

/Please read verses 1-2. / *When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe,*

/God told Joshua / to choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe. / Joshua is a loyal servant of God. / He does not do anything on his own, / but he did everything through obedience.

/Why did God ask him to choose twelve men and take twelve stones? / One stone would have been enough. / He commanded so / to make every tribe cooperate in God's work.

/This is truly amazing truth about the work of God. / Even today, a church is composed of many believers. / Cleaning the facility may be done by a single person. / But a healthy church / involves all of its members to help out in such works.

/Christ is the head of the church and members are His body. / We also have many body parts. / We have hands, feet, and ears. / All of these body parts work together for a single goal. / Likewise, it is more beautiful for two people working together / than working alone in a church.

/God ordered Joshua to choose twelve men from each tribe not just one / to make each tribe participate in the work. / We believers who serve God should all cooperate in God's works.

/At times we work together by prayer. / At times by materials / or by gifts. / Such harmony is beautiful in the eyes of God.

/In verses 3-5, / God told Joshua to take the twelve stones from where the priests are standing.

/Verse 3. / *and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."*

/God ordered Joshua to take up the stone from where the priests were standing / and put them down at the place where they spend the night.

*/Verse 4. / So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe,*

/Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed, one from each tribe. / He obeyed what God said. / And in verse 5, he told them to take up each stone on their shoulder.

/Joshua told them to take it up on their shoulder because he wanted them / to take the job seriously and humbly. / Then why did God tell Joshua to set up the memorial out of twelve stones? / To commemorate the fact that they crossed the Jordan River, the river of death, with faith.

/Applied to our lives, / it can mean that we are to remember His grace all the time. / How much grace of God have we received today? / The fact that we were born as humans is His grace. / Giving us faith to believe in Jesus is His amazing grace.

/It is by God's amazing grace that we came to believe in Jesus. / It is His amazing grace that we can worship Him with such liberty. / But we live, forgetting all of it.

/In addition, it was to commemorate the miracle at Jordan, and to remind the Israelites of His power and miracle as well as to make them serve Him more. / "By God's miracle, we crossed the Jordan River." / "God is capable of solving all of our problems."

/In this way, it was set up to make them serve Him all the more. / Those who are aware of His grace can serve Him more deeply. / It was also to make them give thanks to Him / for letting them cross the river of death by His grace.

/Only those who know God's grace can give thanks to Him. / Since many people do not realize that they have received His grace, they do not thank Him. / In Luke 17, / ten lepers are mentioned. / They cried out to Jesus and were healed.

/By His amazing grace, they were healed. / But nine of the Jews went away. / Only one, who was from Samaria, came to Jesus and knelt down before Him, thanking Him. /He realized and cherished His grace. / Then Jesus said,

/"Where are the other nine?" / Although nine of them who failed to realize His grace went home, / only one who was from Samaria thanked God. / He humbly knelt before Jesus. / "I worship You Jesus."

/"I will live according to Your will." / He gave thanks in a loud voice. / Then Jesus declared that his faith has saved him. / He gave to the Samaritan /more grace and blessing.

/There is nothing in this life that is not His grace. / It is just that we fail to give thanks because we do not realize it. / Let us give thanks to God today. / God continually gives grace to those who thank Him.

/The memorial was set up for that very purpose. / In verses 6-8, / the twelve stones are to serve them as a sign forever.

*/Verse 6. / to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'*

*/"to serve as a sign among you." / "In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' / What is the answer in verse 7?*

*/Verse 7. / tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."*

*/This is a testimony of them crossing the Jordan River. / They are to teach the children through this memorial. / It is very important to teach the word of God to their children.*

*/Many people may have experienced God's grace firsthand. / But their children will not know about it. / So when their descendants ask about the meaning of these stones, / they must testify His amazing grace.*

*/We should teach our children God's words from their childhood. / "God is alive." / "He is still alive." / Timothy was taught to serve God under a godly mother.*

*/He also met a godly teacher, Paul. / So he became a very fine servant in his young age. / We should teach our children His words / and they will grow into faithful young men and women.*

*/Your deep faith should continue for generations and generations. / Instead of trying to provide them with fortunes, / we should leave them with good faith.*

*/If we teach our children God's words faithfully, / they will serve Him and be blessed, even though they may be poor. / Joshua obeyed God with all his heart.*

*/Verse 8. / So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.*

*/Joshua obeyed His word, / and the people obeyed Joshua faithfully. / Those who receive God's grace and blessing are the obedient ones. / What is faith today?*

*/Trusting Him is faith/ and leaving everything to Him and following Him is also faith. / But the most healthy faith is / to trust God's words as they are by heart / and to actively obey Him.*

*/There are some people who know by heart, but do not obey it. / There are some who abandon the word of God and act according to their emotion. / But genuine faith is to trust and obey the word of God.*

*/Whoever has such faith can experience the work of God. / I hope everyone of you obey His words and become believers with a true faith.*

*/In verse 9, / the twelve stones are set up in the Jordan River.*

*/Verse 9. / Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had*

*stood. And they are there to this day.*

/ "Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. / And they are there to this day." / This was to let them remember God's grace all the time. / They are to thank His grace and glorify Him all the time, / and every time they see the twelve stones, / they are to not abandon the place where they received His grace.

/It was meant for them to not betray the grace of God. / Blessed are those who do not betray His grace but stick to Him in faith till the end.

/In verses 10-14, / the details of their crossing are mentioned.

*/Verse 10. / Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over*

/The priests also obeyed His words well. / God ordered Joshua / and Joshua gave the orders to the priests. / The people obeyed him very well. / God works through those who obey Him. / Another amazing thing is how / the people crossed the river quickly through obedience.

*/Verse 11. / and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched.*

/After the people crossed the river, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to another side while the people watched. / In verse 10, it is written, "the people hurried over." / What does this teach us? / It means that we should obey Him whenever He gives us the opportunity.

/If they delay their obedience, water may flow again. / We should obey instantly whenever we realize it is God's will. / It is not every day that we get God-given opportunities.

/When He asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, did he delay it or not? / He obeyed right away and was affirmed by God. / Had he made his mind to obey Him but delayed the action again and again, / Satan's temptation / and human reason may have stopped him from obeying.

/Here, the people obeyed and hurried over when they saw God's miracle. / They would have drowned in the water if God stopped working because of their delays. / We should always obey Him right away.

/There are many people who failed because they delayed to obey Him. / Do you remember Lot's wife in chapter 19 of Genesis? / During the time God was about to judge Sodom and Gomorrah with fire, / He ordered Lot to leave Sodom right away.

/Without looking back / or delaying, / He ordered Lot to run to the mountain to not perish. / But Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. / Had she acted right away and did not look back, she would have been saved.

/Blessed are those who obey Him right away. / The people were able to cross the Jordan River because they obeyed Him well. / In verses 12-13, / two tribes and a

half of a tribe crossed over.

*/Verses 12-13. / The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war.*

/Moses and two tribes and a half-tribe made a promise. / They took the eastern side of the river before anyone else. / When they asked for the land / Moses gave it to them under a condition.

/The condition was that they should not simply be comforted but / return to this land after they have conquered the entire land of Canaan. / What can we learn from this? / Those who received the grace of God should fight first.

/They should not live in comfort just because they took the land already. /They should get rid of their selfishness and help other brothers. / After helping their brothers to take the land, they can return to the eastern side of the Jordan River.

/But in today's time, there are many selfish people even if they go to church. / They think that their good is all that matters. / There are people who think as long as they are saved and go to heaven, everything is fine.

/The reason why God first gave us His abundant grace and blessing / was to make us serve and give it to other people. / We should learn to take care of our brothers. / We should help our brothers and sisters when they are in need of help.

/Just because we have much does not mean that we should live only for ourselves. / The two tribes and another half of a tribe remembered the promise they made with Moses. / Although Moses passed away, they still had the promise to keep.

/Since it was a promise made to God, it had to be kept. / We should love our brothers even today. / God gave Joshua strength and skills. / God exalted Joshua before all the people.

*/Verse 14. / That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.*

/God exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel. / Exalted people are those who are with God. / One becomes great when God works through him.

/Why did God exalt him? / Those who were led by Moses / may think only of Moses. / He exalted Joshua to let the people know that He has appointed Joshua as their leader.

/By exalting him before the people, / God made them more obedient to Joshua, / just like they were to Moses. /This had nothing to do with Joshua's fame.

/This was for God's work / and for guiding the people properly. / Even today, God / gives His gifts to His workers/ and stays with them / and gives them power to handle their calling.

/The only thing they have to do is to obey the word of God. / We must believe

that He will use us for great purposes as long as we obey Him.

/Next in verses 15-18, / after the Israelites crossed the river, / the water that was cut off came back. /This was the amazing work of God.

/He makes the water flow and stop from flowing.

/God lets us experience sufferings and temptations, and also delivers us from such problems. / He is the master of our lives.

*/Verses 15-16. / Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan."*

/God told Joshua once again. / In verse 16, it is written, "Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come out of the Jordan." / And in verse 17, Joshua ordered the priests to come out, and they did.

/The priests and Joshua worked according to God's commands. / They said "yes" to His words to carry the ark of the covenant. / They said "yes" and went down the river. / Then they said "yes" and went out of the river.

/This is the way we should live, and this is the way to be blessed. / He tells us the same thing today. / So a scholar once said something like, / "Go where the Scripture requires you to go, / and stop where it tells you to stop."

/God will be with us when we obey Him. / The priests came out of the river based on Joshua's command.

*/Verse 18. / And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.*

/The priests came up out of the river when Joshua commanded them. / The moment they stepped out from the river the waters returned to their place. / What does this teach us? / God is alive and working even today.

/What is surprising here is that / God controls the flow of the water. / He is the mastermind of everything in our life. / He gives us comfort as well as tribulations in our life.

/What should we learn from the verses here? / We have to learn that we are encountering everything because God thought it necessary. / Behind everything, there is God's plan.

/Just like there are cold and warm days, / God leads us every day by changing our situations. / James prayed in a similar fashion. / Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.

/Is anyone among you happy? Let them sing songs of praise. / We should completely trust in the absolute sovereignty of God. / We should believe that our current situation is allowed to us because God saw it necessary for us. / What should we do when great troubles like crossing the Jordan River is in front of us?

/Why is it allowed in the first place? / We should believe it happened because God saw it beneficial for us. / When such troubles come at us, / we should first look back onto ourselves. / Is there a sin I did not repent?

/At times God allows sufferings in our life to make us realize and repent of our sins. / In such a situation, God restores the situation once we find out our sin and repent it. /At times God makes us strong through such sufferings.

/Every situation we are in is like a training ground. / God is building up people worthy of His Kingdom. /At times He trains us through people, / sometimes through materials, / and other times He uses various illnesses.

/He also lets us encounter difficulties to train us. / By these various trainings, we are built up as people of God. / Thus we should not try to avoid the situation.

/We should accept it, then we can be a person worthy of God's Kingdom. /Sometimes God makes us humble by putting us in situations like the crossing of the Jordan River. / We tend to become proud when everything goes well.

/But through tribulations and sufferings, He humbles us. / Why did God not remove the thorn from Apostle Paul? / He dearly prayed three times. / Then the Lord answered. / He said, "My grace is sufficient for you."

/He said that he has received too many revelations, / thus to prevent him from getting arrogant, He let the thorn be in his body. / All the sufferings and tests/ are allowed to happen to prevent us from being proud.

/Through such sufferings and tribulations/ God reveals His glory. / By encountering a situation we cannot solve with our strength, / we get to experience that God is alive / so as to reveal the glory of God to people.

/In John 9, / a man who was blind since birth is mentioned. / The Jews then came and ask Jesus, / "Is his blindness caused by his sin? / or is it the sin of his parents?" /Then Jesus replied / that neither his nor his parents' sin that has to do with his blindness. / He became blind only to reveal the glory of God.

/Whenever we are faced with sufferings in life, we ought not to be discouraged or dismayed because of difficulties. / Instead, just like how the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, / we ought to be victorious with faith. /We should pass the test with faith. / Next in verses 19-20, / they set up twelve stones in Gilgal.

*/Verses 19-20. / On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilga. on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.*

/The people went up to Jordan on the tenth day of the first month. / Then they camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. / This was also God's amazing grace. / They encamped in Gilgal just few days before the Passover. / Then they set up twelve stones there.

/In verse 20, / they set up the twelve stones just as they were commanded / and thanked God. / This was to remind them of this grace for rest of their life. / Now after that, they gathered all around and kept the Passover.

/In the Old Testament, people kept the Passover. / We should faithfully observe the Lord's Day. / We should keep it holy. / We are not observing this because we want to be saved.

/The Lord's Day is about thanking God for His saving grace. / We also keep it with

the hope for heaven, not for this world. / Those who remember His grace cannot treat it lightly.

/We should always think about His saving grace every time we keep the Lord's Day. /He has delivered us from sin and death/ and lets us enter into heaven forever. / He also gave us resurrection and everlasting life and this is God's amazing grace.

/We should serve God, with all these graces in mind. / Next in verses 21-24, / we ask the question, what is the reason behind setting up the twelve stones in Gilgal?

*/Verses 21-22. / He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean? tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'*

/The descendants will ask their parents / the meaning of these stones. / What is the answer in verse 22? / Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

/They are to teach their children that by God's grace they crossed the Red Sea and / experienced the miracle of God in the Jordan River. / They are to teach them that they can also experience such a miracle if they trust in His word and obey it.

/They are to teach them that it was God's grace that let them live up until now. / They ought to not only teach His words / but also share the story of their experience concerning God's work. / And in verse 23, it is written that the Lord God is the One who dried up the Jordan River.

*/Verse 23. / For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over.*

/It is written that the One who dried the waters in the Jordan River and the Red Sea is God. / Why did they emphasize the dried water, to teach what? / How can such number of people cross such vast amount of water?

/Can they dig out the water? / Can they dry the waters in the river and sea? / They are to teach their children that people can't do it, but God can. / They are to teach them that God is an omnipotent Being.

/Even today, we should make sure to teach our children that God is alive and working. / "We humans are limited, / but God's power is limitless." / "Humans cannot, but God can." / "He is the One who dried the Red Sea and the Jordan River."

/"Since He is omnipotent, He can do anything." / We should have such faith today. / We should believe that everything is possible with God. / And in verse 24, it is written that He did so in order for all to fear Him.

*/Verse 24. / He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God."*

/They set up twelve stones in Gilgal. / They should remember His grace all the



time. / They are to let others know the powerful hands of God. / We must fear Him forever.

/This is end of the fourth lecture on Joshua. / Thank you.