

Sermon Title: A Living Legacy: Trinity on its 68th Anniversary

Themes: Loving Jesus and leaving a living legacy. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: What will live past your death?

Sermon Points:

1. Reminders of blessings. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land they set aside memorial stones as a reminder of God's awesome blessings. **Joshua 3:17.** They set up 12 stones as a memorial on land to remind their descendants that Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground. They also set up 12 stones in the river as part of the testimony of their journey out of Egypt. In this way, all the people of the earth would know that the LORD's hand is mighty, and God's people would fear and obey the Lord.

Joshua 4:1-3. Notice that the Lord instructed them to set up the stones as a marker even though there was a lot of work to be done. The Lord works His plan in our midst. We get to join God when we are obedient! **Romans 8:28** **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**

The Jordan River was a milestone, a transition, and preparation for their next step of faith. **Joshua 4:9** and **Joshua 4:19-24.** Joshua set up the 12 stones in Gilgal and he *also* set up a monument in the river. While the 12 stones on land remind us of God's promise to the Israelites to return them safely to the Promised Land, the 12 stones in the river mark the dividing line between their past (Egypt, bondage, and misery) and their future (the Promised Land, freedom, and joy).

These two memorials give us a picture of two spiritual monuments in a believer's life: (1) Like the river monument, the monument of our own deliverance from life in the world (the moment of our salvation) is visible to others when we accept Christ and are baptized (but, thereafter, is *invisible* to the world, and (2) the visible monument of obedience (the monument on land).

Our walk with the Lord (sanctification) should *always* be evident to all. On Trinity's 68th anniversary, while what is happening in our hearts as we draw closer to God and to each other is less visible, this worship center is a *very* visible monument to all those who faithfully served before us.

2. Seize your ministry moments. Some of our most memorable moments as Christians are unplanned. We must be on "go" for Jesus. Jesus lived that way too. After preaching the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus demonstrated He was always on "go" for the Kingdom. **Matthew 8:1-13.** There have been spiritual needs met by the people of this church *every single day* of the past 68 years! Today a spiritual need will cross your path. Will you make it a priority? The opportunity to address it will be brief, so seize it like Jesus would.

3. The things of God are holy. Joshua 5:13-15. Joshua was *specifically* chosen by God for the task of conquering the Promised Land. **Joshua 1:1-5.**

Despite God's clear anointing, Joshua had to show reverence to the things of the Lord. God's holiness is eternal. Moses, who would lead the people out of Egypt and to the cusp of the Promised Land, was told to remove his sandals. Joshua, who would lead the people across the Jordan and into the Promised Land, was told to remove his sandals. Who are we to think that God's work in our life does not demand equal reverence?

When God is at work the very ground is dignified. Even the dust of the earth radiates the glory of the divine in the presence of the Almighty. Our singing of hymns and songs, and preaching and teaching the Word, are our memorials to God today. No matter how spiritual you are, no matter how blessed, chosen, favored, and preferred as a child of God, you are *still* called to treat the Lord as holy. God waters-down His holiness for no man.

You might be thinking that you have too many problems, or you are so *enjoying* your many blessings, that you are too busy to ponder the spiritual markers in your life. Even in the midst of the journey of life, we can pause to set up markers and share them with others. What are the stones in your life that are worth sharing with the next generation? Do you really trust in God's past faithfulness to carry you through the next battle? Are you loving Jesus and leaving a living legacy?

Reflection: Lord, help me to invest in the soul-deep things that will last forever.