

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

**8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX**

Pastor: Steve Bishop

August 9, 2015

Message – Signs

Deuteronomy 32:7 Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.

There's a big tree out in the pasture, probably 150 years old. When I was a kid, my granddad would tell me that Indians used to sit under this tree. Eating lunch under the old tree, I found arrow heads so I believed him. My friends and I camped out under the tree hundreds of time. This was a special tree, a special sign...there's a good horse buried under the tree, and many good dogs have found their final resting spot, under this tree. My dad bought the 3 acres from a neighbor just to get the one big tree for my mom.

The Israelites were constantly forgetting what God had done for them...Plagues in Egypt....crossing the Red Sea.... Cloud by day/fire by night ... manna and quail to eat, water at every point when the jugs went dryThey were like little kids who cry and throw a fit when they get hungry even though you have never forgotten to feed them.

Joshua 3 14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15 Now the Jordan is a flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge. 16 the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 4 1 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2 "Choose twelve men from among the people,

one from each tribe, 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.” 4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, 5 and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, “what do these stones mean?” 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.”

We all have a tendency to forget what God has done. “Remember” is used 166 times in the NIV Bible.

Remembering God’s Faithfulness in the past will guide you through problems in the present.

8 So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number 9 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. 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.

The priests were gone, it was just the stones carriers and God holding back the water. It took effort to go back to the middle (not the edge) and trust in God to get the markers.

Application: Remember when you accepted Jesus and decided to follow him.

Remember the times you asked people to pray and God showed up in a big way...

Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man may plan his ways but the Lord directs his steps.