

**Remembering**  
**Joshua 3:7-4:7, 19-24**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** God wants us to remember. What are we to remember, how are we to remember, and why should we remember.

**I) What are we to remember?**

Events that exalt our God as Lord of all and as our gracious rescuer

**A) Crossing the Jordan**

The fulfillment of a 700-year-old promise

The second half of God's great deliverance

Difficult

A word to us

**B) How God made the event memorable: 3.16: ...the waters rose up in a heap**

*4.24: ...so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty that you may fear the LORD your God forever.*

**II) How are we to remember?**

Through tangible signs.

**A) Stones from the Jordan**

*4.2, 6-7: Let the stones be a sign among you*

**B) Tangible reminders for us**

*Take and eat. Do this in remembrance of me.*

*Here I lift mine Ebenezer (Hebrew—'stone of remembrance')*

*Hither by thy grace I'm come...*

At the Table we reveal the power of God, for we are mostly *Canaanites (3.10)*

**C) Other, lesser, 'Ebenezer's'**

Grace at meals

Letters to God

EPC tenth anniversary celebration

**III) Why does the Lord give us 'Ebenezer's'?**

He loves us, and knows that we forget

He loves those who do not yet belong to him

### Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) What are the key events of the Biblical story? What makes them so important?
- 2) How is the crossing of the Jordan like and unlike the crossing of the Red Sea? Why the similarities? Why the differences? How are the two crossings parallel to major crossings in the life of a NT believer?
- 3) Do you have difficulty imagining that the Jordan backed up in the way described? Why? Why not?
- 4) What was the action that caused the Jordan waters to back up? What is significant about this?
- 5) Why does God use tangible signs to remind us of significant events in the history of redemption and in our personal stories (for example, the stones of remembrance, baptism, and the Lord's Supper)?
- 6) What are some tangible things you have built into the cycle of your life that have helped you carry on as a believer? How have they helped you?
- 7) What are some good reasons for anniversary celebrations—especially in a family and a church?
- 8) Why does God give us tangible signs? What does his provision of them tell us about ourselves? What does it tell us about him?
- 9) Spend time writing a prayer thanking God for the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Tell him how they have helped you. Be concrete. Ask him to help you benefit from them more fully. Confess ways in which you have made poor use of them.