



February 2, 2025

Obedience

Joshua 5:1-12 (ESV)

As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel. ²At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time." ³So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. ⁴And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. ⁶For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord; the Lord swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. ⁸When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. ⁹And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Sermon Summary:

The Other Side. The focus of our attention and the object of our affection. It beckons us. It calls us by name. It looks so good. Yet we sit on the edge looking in. Wondering. Waiting. Will we ever experience it? What does it take to step in? Who will take us there?

Joshua asked the same questions as he sat on the outside looking in. Rather than stopping short of the other side, stuck in wandering and fear, he took a step. A step of faith that changed his life. In this series we discover how Joshua moved forward and experienced all that God for him on the other side.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Which do you prefer
 - Coffee or tea
 - Early bird or night owl
 - Chipotle or Qdoba
 - Rom-Com or Sci-fi
 - Mountains or beach



2. What's something you want to get better at?
3. What's something you are excited about?
4. What's something you are worried about?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. How did the people of the land react to the news of the miracle at the Jordan River?
2. What did God command Joshua and the people to do?
3. Why would the people need to be circumcised?
4. What can be learned from verses 6-7 about the spiritual condition of the people in the wilderness?
5. Why might circumcising all the males who were of fighting age not be considered sound military strategy?
6. What lessons regarding obedience was God teaching the Israelites through commanding the circumcisions?
7. In verse 9, the Lord told Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt." Explain what this verse means.
8. What was the significance of reestablishing the celebration of Passover before moving into the Promised land?
9. In what ways are circumcision and Passover like today's celebrations of baptism and the Lord's Supper?

Application Questions:

1. Share about a time in your life that you had to make the decision to begin obeying God. How did you move to living obediently?
2. Is there an area of your life that you have felt shame from your past?
3. Share about your baptism experience.
4. What does Communion mean to you?