

The Parish of Wellow

12 Stones – Joshua 4:1-9

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below or join us at **Coffee 'n' Stickles** Wednesday 15th November 7.30pm at The Cottage, High Street, Wellow, Bath (Call Pauline Preddy 01225 832625 for directions) to discuss the questions further.

1. Talk Passage

Joshua 4:1-9

*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 stood and to 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."
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.
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.*

2. Talk Notes



Sign

Thanks

Others

Perpetual

2.1 After 40 years of wandering around the desert the children of Israel finally cross the swollen river Jordan and enter the promised land. But as they do God tells them to STOP and collect 12 stones: *'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.'* (4:5)

2.2 Sign (4:6)

- God *'tells them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan'* (v3) *'to serve as a SIGN among you'* (v6)
- On Remembrance Sunday every year we wear poppies as a SIGN

2.3 Thanks (4:7)

- God tells them that the 12 stones were to remind them to THANK God for cutting off the flow of the River Jordan so that they could cross into the Promised Land on dry ground.
- On Remembrance Sunday every year we give thanks for the lives of men and women who died in order that we might live under the democratic rule of law.

2.4 Others (4:6)

- God wants the next generation OTHERS to remember: *In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'* Remind them what God did as they entered the Promised Land.
- Remembrance Sunday enables us to remind 'the next generation' of war and its terrible consequences.

2.4 Perpetual (4:7)

- God wants the 12 stones to be a PERPETUAL memorial to the Israelites entry into the promised land: *'These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel FOREVER'*
- Remembrance Sunday acts as a PERPETUAL reminder of those who were lost but also of the consequences of war.

3. Coffee 'n' Stickles Questions

3.1 What other perpetual 'signs' do we use today to remind us of what God has done for us?

3.2 Why does God get the Israelites to STOP? Why does God encourage us to do likewise?

3.3 What is a prayer journal? Why is it useful to keep one?

3.4 Why is it important to remind 'the next generation' about what God has done? What risks do we run if we don't?

3.5 Your grandson says to you one day that he thinks Remembrance Sunday is a waste of time. How would you respond?

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Matthew Street 12th November 2006

The Benefice of Peasedown St John with Wellow

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