

Introduction:

1. Last October the Lee family began to get more serious about daily Bible studies together. We began reading through the book of Proverbs. Now, we are in the book of Joshua. We're also going to begin a family study on the resurrection of Jesus.
2. As we've been reading through Joshua, there is something I've missed in it along the way. Or at least I have forgotten what was stated. It's always interesting how our minds can see more of the things we're gravitating to. One our pastors Tim recently finished a terrific study on parenting and the home. Nikki and I have put together a Mission statement for our family and are focusing on some core values as we raise Joshua. Thank you Tim. As we walk through the book of Joshua, I'm seeing more thoughts with respect to the family.
 - a. I see the importance of leadership in the home like Joshua had.
 - b. I see the miracles of God and the reminders to talk about them with Joshua.
 - c. I see how there's to be a daily conversation about God, His promises, and what He's done for us. I also see something else.
 - d. I see how ALONG THE WAY (Slide) it can be easy for parents to lose sight on God's will.
3. As we read through Joshua 5, it's fascinating what we see.

The Lesson:

I. God told Joshua to circumcise the people a second time, Joshua 5:1-9.

- A. God had dried up the waters of the Jordan so His people could walk through, **Verse 1**.
 1. **Verse 2:** God then commanded Joshua to make a flint knife and circumcise the men. Circumcision is a cutting off the foreskin on a man's penis.
 2. **Verse 3:** Joshua obeyed God's commands and did so.
 3. **Verse 4:** A further explanation is given as to why.
 - a. The generation of men who came out of Egypt died in the wilderness. Why? Because of their lack of trust and unfaithfulness, Numbers 14:26-33.
 - b. That generation had been circumcised. God spoke to Abraham regarding circumcision, Genesis 17: 9-14.
 - c. When God had called Moses to lead His people, Moses had not circumcised his son. His wife Zipporah did it, Exodus 4:24-27.
 4. There was an expectation from God that His people would obey His commands.
- B. The New Generation coming out of the wilderness had not yet been circumcised.
 1. **Verse 5:** They should have been! But ALONG THE WAY they had not.
 2. **Verse 6:** God's people had walked in the wilderness 40 years due to disobedience.
 3. **Verse 7:** It was Joshua who would circumcise their children.

4. **Verse 8:** After the circumcision, it was a time to heal. In verse 3 the place where this took place is called the hill of foreskins.
5. **Verse 9:** God said a reproach (shame, disgrace, rebuke) had been rolled away. This place was Gilgal. It was at Gilgal the stones were set up, Joshua 4:19. Now the circumcision took place here. The Passover would be observed here as well, Joshua 5:10. It was a place to remember God's power, His commands, and His provisions.

II. What happened to God's people where no circumcision took place?

- A. This is a question a lot of people have. Let's consider a few possibilities.
 1. Due to traveling they did not circumcise. **The challenge with that is that they are traveling now, and are told to do it. They were also times where they camped along the way.**
 2. It was the mixed multitude that had come out of Egypt with them. **That's a possibility. Yet, it still somewhat odd that they would wait such a long time. Especially if the foreigners celebrated the Passover. They were to be circumcised, Exodus 12:48-49; Number 9:14**
 3. We don't ever see a time where God told the people of Israel not to circumcise.
 4. A fourth possibility which is where I'm camping was due to the stubbornness of the people.
 - a. Moses initially hesitated circumcising his son, Exodus 4:24-25.
 - b. We know the new generation in Judges 2 would forget God. Is it far fetched to consider that those in the wilderness due to disobedience, discontentment, and disappointment failed to circumcise? Along the way, the WAY of God was not always followed.
- B. Are there some things we're forgetting ALONG THE WAY?
 1. In 2020, many wanted the year to be over. Okay, it is! What have we done ALONG THE WAY for God, the Kingdom, and helping our children to follow after Him?
 2. Many people (Christians) throughout America wanted to be done with masks. Okay, for the most part we are. We've gotten what we've wanted, but ALONG THE WAY in 2021, have we forgotten our children? Have we forgotten our responsibility to God's commands?
 3. ALONG THE WAY are forgetting to share THE WAY with our children? Are we instilling in them God's word ALONG THE WAY? Has our...
 - a. **Thirst for entertainment** gotten in the way ALONG THE WAY of seeking God?
 - b. **Complaining** about mask mandates, politics, gotten in the way ALONG THE WAY to rejoice and share the mighty deeds God has done for us to our children?
 - c. **Marital Disputes** gotten in the way ALONG THE WAY where we fail to realize our children are watching and imitating what they see in us?

Conclusion:

1. Life happens fast! But it can't be so fast we fail to instill in our children God, His truth, His love, His commands and instructions.
2. Like Israel, 40 years can pass really fast! Let's be sure the next generation is ready!