

Joshua – Renewal

Joshua 5:1-15 (ESV)

Joshua 24:1-33 (ESV)

Spiritual renewal comes as we respond to what God has done in Jesus Christ.

Fathers can lead their families in spiritual renewal by responding to what God has done in Jesus Christ.

1. Recognize and rehearse what God has done
2. Recognize and repent of sin
3. Recognize and rely on Jesus Christ
4. Reflect and Respond

Recognize and rehearse what God has done

- **Joshua 5:1 (ESV)**
- The episode of renewal in **Joshua 24** begins in the same manner; God is the one who initiates and accomplishes all things for Israel.
- We need to recognize the work of God in our lives, but as Joshua has done we need to rehearse it as well. We need to tell people about God's work in our lives. Non-Christians need to hear the good news which is precisely what God has done. We need to speak these stories to one another, encouraging and edifying one another. We need to speak these truths to ourselves, bolstering and bulwarking our own faith with the stories of God's gracious work in our lives. And make no mistake, it is his work.

Recognize and repent of sin

- **Joshua 5:4-6 (ESV)**
- **Joshua 24:19-23 (ESV)**
- If we want to see spiritual renewal, we need to recognize our sin and repent of our sin.

Jonathan Edwards: "Though [repentance] be a deep sorrow for sin that God requires ... yet the very nature of it necessarily implies delight. Repentance of sin is a sorrow arising from the sight of God's excellency and mercy, but the apprehension of excellency or mercy must necessarily and unavoidably beget pleasure in the mind of the beholder.

Recognize and rely on Jesus Christ

- Types – A type is a real person, place, object, or event that God ordained to act as a predictive pattern or resemblance of Jesus’ person and work.
 - Passover
 - **Joshua 5:10 (ESV)**
 - The Passover lamb was a type of Jesus. The Passover was a real event. The truths of substitutionary sacrifice and redemption by blood were found in both the type and the antitype [literally “in place of the type,” meaning “fulfillment of the type”]. These truths were enlarged, heightened, and clarified in the fulfillment. The fulfillment was the God-man—not just a lamb; and He redeemed from spiritual and eternal bondage—not just physical and temporary bondage.
- Analogy – “analogy exposes parallels between what God taught Israel and what Christ teaches the church; what God promised Israel and what Christ promises the church; what God demanded of Israel (the law) and what Christ demands of his church”
 - Covenant formula
 - God’s deliverance and gift is the basis for their response of loving obedience to his commands.
 - God’s gift – **Joshua 24:13 (ESV)**
 - Response of obedience – **Joshua 24:14-18 (ESV)**
 - Jesus permeates both of these Old Testament stories of renewal. The Passover was a substitutionary sacrifice that was an integral part of Joshua and the Israelites’ covenant renewal after crossing the Jordan. Our own spiritual renewal is firmly founded on the sacrifice to which the Passover pointed to: Christ’s substitutionary atonement on the cross. The covenant formula is evident as Joshua and the Israelites respond to God’s gracious gift and deliverance with obedience. This teaches us, by analogy, that God’s gracious and merciful work of salvation in Christ’s death is the foundation for our own obedience.

Reflect and Respond

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

This commitment in the midst of renewal did not appear out of nowhere. It was the heartfelt declaration of Joshua as he led the Israelites in recognizing and rehearsing what God had done and recognizing and repenting of sin.

As Christians we do these also while we recognize and rely on Jesus Christ.

This Father’s Day, in the midst of celebration, fathers, will you lead your families in pursuit of spiritual renewal? This pursuit must rest and rise from the work of Christ. But with that foundation, will you lead your families in remembering God and repenting of sin?