

Introduction:

- *"When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. And 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."* (Joshua 5:8-9, ESV)
- *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me."* (Psalm 51:10-11, ESV)
- Last Sunday, Resurrection Sunday I mentioned the 'eight days later' regarding Thomas. (8 days is when they circumcise their newborns) That Jesus had come to circumcise Thomas' heart of the doubt and unbelief that was holding him captive.
- My favorite dream is to pastor a church known for the presence of God and known for the people's fruitful personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. I dream of a church that brings freedom and life to people and glory to God.
- This morning I want to talk about Joshua's Decree, David's Cry, and Jesus' Provision.

I. Joshua's Decree

- In Joshua 5:8-9, we find Joshua having led the children of Israel across the dried up Jordan River. The flooded river stopped flowing long enough for the people of God to cross over. Moses crossed over the Red Sea, Joshua crossed over the Jordan River, Jesus crossed over from death unto life!
 - The first thing he has to do after setting up the 12 stones as a memorial to what God has done, is to circumcise all the males who crossed over.
 - In the wilderness they did not circumcise the newborns. This reveals the condition of their unbelieving hearts and why God did not allow those who came out of Egypt to enter the promised land...their unbelief. Their unbelief became their reproach.
 - They remained in place until they were healed...and then God said...
- Joshua's decree is that reproach has been rolled away. This is good news! *"And 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."* What can I say that God has already said!
 - What is reproach? *"Basically, the word means "to reproach," with the specific connotation of casting blame or scorn on someone. In most instances the word is used in the sense of casting scorn. May be understood as disgrace or dishonor."*
Mccomiskey, T. E. (1999). [749 תרפ](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 325). Moody Press.
 - When David sinned he brought reproach upon himself. When Adam sinned he brought reproach upon himself and all humanity. When you sin you bring reproach upon yourself. Two other translations of Joshua 5:9 are:

- a) The Lord told Joshua, *"It was a disgrace for my people to be slaves in Egypt, but now I have taken away that disgrace."*
- b) Then the Lord spoke to Joshua. He said, *"Today I have taken away from you the shame of being laughed at by Egypt."*
- c) Why was Israel a reproach to God?
 - (1) Because she would not believe when it was time to enter the promised land. All the excitement was about leaving Egypt and returning home! Unbelief stopped her. For the next 40 years she wandered in the wilderness all the while Egypt laughed because Israel's God could not get them into the land of their fathers.
 - (2) As long as they were in the wilderness they were a reproach to God. The wilderness is a reproach—the promised land is a blessing. God has ordained us to occupy His promised land.
- C. God wanted Israel clearly marked as the people of God.
 - 1. God has Joshua circumcise all the males to remind them of the covenant they have with God! Now that you are in the promised land there can be no more shame in thinking that they will perish in the desert like the Egyptians said.
 - 2. *"...circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter..."* (Romans 2:29, ESV) God wants our hearts clearly marked by heaven. When our hearts are clearly marked our lives are clearly different.
 - 3. God wants our lives to be clearly visible that we are a different people because of our relationship with Him. Circumcision was a:
 - a) 'Right of passage' saying that you have arrived at our promised land.
 - b) A purification from the ways of Egypt/world. We leave our past behind.
 - c) A re-establishment of covenant between God and man.
 - d) God's judgement was turned away (no more wilderness walking)
 - e) No longer slaves to Egypt.
- D. The reproach of Egypt in our hearts must be cut out and rolled away! I.e. Making reservations...we can always go back to Egypt. If that is our mindset we will never see the miracles that God desires to do...like Hornets that drove out the Amorites before Israel. The 10 spies did not see that coming! We must renew our minds. Be rid of reproach.

II. David's Cry

- A. In Ps 51 we find a man, the King of Israel, a man known as a man after God's own heart. And he is crying out to God because his personal sin has radically disrupted his life.
- B. David, a man after God's own heart, has committed hideous sins, adultery and murder.

1. Nathan the prophet comes to him and tells David a story about a man who takes another man's lamb. David quickly begins to tell what must be done to this man. Nathan's reply, "David, you are that man."
2. I cannot think of too many sins, paired up, worse than that. Can you imagine what David felt like after that. I cannot begin to think of the shame, the guilt, the defilement that his sinful choices brought to him.
3. I.e. "There is a short story by Edgar Allen Poe called, 'The Telltale Heart'. After committing murder, the main character dismembers the body and buries it under the wooden planks on the floor. He does such a good job that when the police come to investigate, he invites them in and even aids them in their search for clues. But the murderer is unable to escape the haunting guilt of his deed. He begins to hear the heartbeat of his dead victim. A cold sweat pours over him as that heartbeat goes on and on, relentlessly, getting louder and louder. Poe repeats the word for effect. Louder! Louder! Louder! Why can't the officers hear the sound of the beating heart? It begins to drive him mad. Finally, in desperation to make the sound go away, he admits the crime. The story ends this way: "Villains!" I shrieked, "Dissemble no more! I admit the deed! –Tear up the planks! Here, here! –It is the beating of his hideous heart!" It was his guilt/reproach that drove him mad. unknown.
4. Guilt is like that. When we have sinned, the heart will not rest until it is clean once again. This is why David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." He heard the pounding of his own guilty heart and he could not live with the shame/reproach of what he had done.
 - a) When a man who has experienced the presence of God, has an unclean heart, he rightly fears being cast out of God's presence.
 - b) When a man who has walked with the Holy Spirit has an unclean heart, he rightly fears losing the Holy Spirit. Eph 4:30 *"Grieve not the Holy Spirit..."*
5. David's cry in Ps 51 is:
 - a) have mercy on me...
 - b) wash me, create in me a clean heart...and please...
 - c) do not take your presence from me...
 - d) or, your Holy Spirit from me.
 - e) This cry says much about a man who has genuinely experienced God! He now realizes what he has lost in the spirit and he wants to get back to the place that he had been in,
- C. Only God can get you back to that place of intimacy, holiness, and purity.
 1. God, through the blood of Jesus cleanses the heart that cries out to Him. *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we*

deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:7-9, ESV)

- a) Walk in the light and you do not have to fear reproach.
 - b) Confess your sins and He will forgive and cleanse.
2. David knew this and that is what Ps 51 is about. Get back into the Presence of God and learning to walk with the Holy Spirit. Once you taste resurrection power you do not want to live life without it.

III. Jesus' Provision

- A. The OT is a shadow or a type of the reality that we have in Christ Jesus! When you get born again God removes your reproach!
- B. His Righteousness
 - 1. Is 64:6 says that our righteousness is as filthy rags. But His righteousness is the foundation of His throne! If you make Jesus the Lord of your life you are building on His righteousness not yours! When a man believes, God makes the believer righteous!
 - 2. His righteousness comes to us by faith not by our good works. *"For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.'"* (Romans 4:3, ESV)
 - 3. Faith is what the children of Israel did not have after coming out of Egypt. *"But no one earns God's righteousness. It can only be transferred when we no longer rely on our own works, but believe in the one who powerfully declares the ungodly to be righteous in his eyes. It is faith that transfers God's righteousness into your account!"* (Romans 4:5, TPT)
 - 4. *"The heart that believes in him receives the gift of the righteousness of God—and then the mouth gives thanks to salvation."* (Romans 10:10, TPT)
 - 5. The righteousness of God is a reproach 'roller awayer!'
- C. His Presence
 - 1. Living in us! *"Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!"* (Colossians 1:27, TPT)
 - 2. The promise of the presence. *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20, ESV)
 - 3. Faith grants us access to the presence of God! What do I believe about God? I believe what the Word tells me to believe for!
 - 4. *"Now your souls will be strengthened and healed if you hold steadfast to your faith. Haven't you already experienced Jesus Christ himself living in you? If not, you are*

deficient." (2 Corinthians 13:5, TPT)

D. His Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is the person of His presence. He is the Spirit of Christ! A person. He has feelings, you can grieve Him. He thinks. He feels. He talks. He leads.
2. His Spirit was sent by Jesus to live in us.
 - a) We are sealed with Spirit. We bare the mark of God. Eph 4:30 therefore we are exhorted to put off the acts of the flesh and start looking like Christ.
 - b) His Spirit is a gift to us. *"And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles."* (Acts 10:45, ESV) Eph 5:18 be filled with the Spirit.

E. The greatest thing the church/believers can have is the Presence of God in your life! And to walk with the Holy Spirit!

1. To walk without reproach!
2. To walk in faith believing...having become the righteousness of God in Christ!
3. God says, *"I am moving on only with a holy people. There is a world of joy and peace that lies ahead but you cannot bring your reproach with you. Cut it off! Sharpen the knives! No flesh is allowed from here on in. No idolatry! No clinging lusts! No secret reproach!"* David Wilkerson.

Conclusion:

- Both Joshua and David realized the importance of letting go of the reproach/shame of the past and living in the presence of God and walking with the Spirit.
- David was desperate! Do not leave me! Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
- If you want to advance with Christ you have to let God deal with the idols in your life. Those things that you do not want to give up.
- Ask yourself: Am I drawn forward by an inner knowledge that the Lord's plans for me are for good and not for evil, to bring me to an expected end—a place that my heart has always longed to go...the promised land?
- If you are determined to go on with God, He will supply you the grace that you need to do it with. You will find life and you will find it more abundantly. The Presence and the Holy Spirit.