

**Title:** “Dry Ground”

**Text:** Joshua 3:17-4:7, 21-24

**Target:** The redundancy of a phrase like “dry ground” is a statement of the obvious. It is making a comparison of what once was, but now has changed. The beauty of a journey through the Jordan River was to eventually be standing on “dry ground”. A “dry ground” moment for us today is the commemoration of Memorial Day. In a day where it seems the coordinates of our country are lost; what’s not lost is the breath taking beauty of freedom afforded by the many who have gone before us and paid the highest price for our democracy. We will never forget!

**Key Text:** Joshua 4:7: *So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”*

**Key Question:** What did these stones memorialize?

- I. **The Setting of Challenge:** “*the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest*” (3:15)
  - a. **Difficulties bring Discoveries.**
  - b. **Obstacles create Opportunities.**
  - c. **Impossibility becomes Reality.**
  
- II. **A Step of Courage:** “*dipped in the brink of the water*” (3:15)
  - a. **Not without Caution:** Carrying the Ark of the Covenant.
  - b. **Not without Calculation:** Crossing with the Ark of the Covenant.
  - c. **Not without Consideration:** Confident because of the Ark of the Covenant.
  
- III. **Status of Citizenship:** “*all the nation*” (3:17, 4:1)
  - a. **From Promise to a Possession.** (Isaiah 66:8/Psalm 122:6)
  - b. **From People to a Nation:** 5/14/1948
  
- IV. **Symbol of Cooperation:** “*take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder*” (4:5)
  - a. **Representation:** Appointment of the devoted.
  - b. **Rededication:** Agreement in direction.
  - c. **Relocation:** Acceptance of destiny.
  
- V. **Statement of Consecration:** “*What do these stones mean?*” (4:20-24)
  - a. **Practical Location:** Meaning of Gilgal: Stone Circle (Vs. 20)
  - b. **Personal Explanation:** “*...let your children know*” (Vs. 22)
  - c. **Profound Demonstration:** “*the LORD is mighty*” (Vs. 24)

**Take Away:** There were two memorials that were consecrated to this “Dry Ground” moment. One was public for all to see at Gilgal, the other was private made between God and Joshua in the river Jordan. Notice: Joshua 4:9. **A public commitment begins with a private conviction!**