

## **Preparing for God's Next Move**

*Joshua 3:1-8*

With the Promised Land of Canaan thoroughly investigated and the Israelites convinced of God's presence and blessing, they were ready to claim the possession of Abraham, their forefather. Because moving into the Promised Land was such a major undertaking it was important that they were adequately prepared before they entered. The people needed to be aware of the things that would help them in their next venture as well as deal with the things that would hinder success. Their story of preparation in this text provides excellent lessons for leaders to consider when positioning themselves for God's next move.

### **I. Things That Help.**

A. Promptness With God's Plan. *Vs. 1 "Then Joshua got up early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they spent the night there before they crossed."*

B. Pulling Together on God's Plan. *Vs. 1 "Then Joshua got up early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they spent the night there before they crossed."*

C. Patience With God's Plan. *Vs. 1 "Then Joshua got up early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they spent the night there before they crossed. 2 Then at the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp;" Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 40:31*

D. Publicizing God's Plan. *Vs. 3 "...and they commanded the people, saying, 'When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.' "*

E. Proper Appointments for God's Plan. *Vs. 7 "Now the LORD said to Joshua, 'This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they will know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you.' " 1 Samuel 16:6-13, Jeremiah 1:5, Haggai 2:23, John 15:16,*

F. Preparing the People for God's Plan. *Vs. 8 "So you shall command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.' " Matthew 10:1-15 , Mark 6:7-12, Luke 6:12-13*

## II. Things That Hinder.

### A. Comfort.

1. With God. *Vs. 4* “**However, there shall be a distance between you and it of about two thousand cubits by measurement. Do not come near it, so that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.**” *Daniel 4:29-32*

2. With Ourselves. *Vs. 4* “*However, there shall be a distance between you and it of about two thousand cubits by measurement. **Do not come near it, so that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.***”

B. Changelessness. *Vs. 5* “*Then Joshua said to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do miracles among you.’*” *James 1:21, 1 Peter 1:16*

C. Conceit. *Vs. 6* “*And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, ‘**Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people.**’ So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people.*”