

Crossing Over Your Jordan

[SLIDE] Joshua 3:1-6 Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and **all the people of Israel**, and lodged there before they passed over. 2 At the end of three days the officers went through the camp 3 and commanded the people, **[SLIDE]** “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and **follow it**. 4 Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. **[SLIDE]** Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, **for you have not passed this way before.**” 5 Then Joshua said to the people, “**Consecrate yourselves**, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you

[SLIDE] 14-17 So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant **before** the people, 15 and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were **dipped** in the brink of the **water [SLIDE] (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest)**, 16 the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap **very far away**, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. **[SLIDE]** And the people passed over opposite Jericho. 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord **stood firmly on dry ground** in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until **all** the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

[SLIDE] PRAY

Not everything is practical

I’m reading a book a friend gave me

- Some its opening lines speak of a societal epidemic we are experiencing
- This idea of having so much information at our fingertips
- It has programmed us to demand **immediate solutions** for every issue
- To get all the data upfront
- Also how there is always the next research or study that debunks the last
- Keto diet is good...keto diet is bad for these reasons
- Electric vehicles are good...electric vehicles are a fire hazard
- We get a rash and WebMD tells us it can be anything
- From a gluten allergy to stage 4 skin cancer
- What does that do to our souls?
- Not only is it destroying our ability to be patient
- But with the advent of AI content creation
- Skepticism is at an all-time high

It is destroying our faith

- It keeps us from experiencing the God
- We need to know and are dying without

As Christians we need to make place for mystery and wonder

- When you sit on the shores of Lake Michigan
- Do you watch the sun set in all of its God adorned beauty?
- Or do stare at your device
- Researching the earths rotation rate
- and theories of light refraction
- When you hear a funny story
- You don’t need to study the neuroscience behind laughter
- Rather just belt out the God created natural response that is actually medicine for your soul!

We can’t google everything

We need direction from the Lord...We need faith

Because every one of us eventually faces a *Jordan River*.

- A place where we know God has promised something on the other side
- But standing between us and that promise is an obstacle we cannot cross on our own
- (even though we may try)
- For Israel, it wasn't just a river.
- It was the Jordan at flood stage.
- (Normally 30-40 yards wide six feet deep)
- (due to run off from Mount Hermon it was a rushing river probably a mile wide)
- Behind them was the wilderness.
- Ahead of them was the Promised Land.
- And right in front of them was something impossible.
- There was a decision to be made
- This wasn't a group of Army Engineers
- No information highway to figure out a way around
- Weather app to let them know when the water levels would drop

Joshua chapter 3 shows us how God's people move forward when the way is blocked

- And how faith is built when God asks us to trust Him before we see results.
- Joshua begins his challenge to the people with this reminder

[SLIDE] GOD IS GOING BEFORE YOU—BUT YOU MUST FOLLOW HIS PRESENCE

- He knew they need to keep their eyes on something besides the rushing water

[SLIDE] Joshua 3:3–4 “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and **follow it**.

- The Ark represented the presence of God.
- Israel was not led by warriors, scouts, or strategy—they were led by God Himself.
- God was saying, “If you'll keep your eyes on Me, I'll show you where to go.”
- Moses knew this When God commanded him to leave Sinai
- He would go to the “Tent of meeting”
- The presence of God would descend on it

[SLIDE] Exodus 33:15 “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.

- I love the prayer of Jehoshaphat
- When faced with an insurmountable obstacle
- He proclaimed

[SLIDE] 2 Chronicles 20:12 For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

Joshua was explicit about the plan

- The people were told to keep a distance—about a thousand yards. Why?
- So they wouldn't crowd the Ark. (reverence/awe)
- So everyone could see the Ark (faith)
- Not thinking about the water coming back
- Not thinking about the conquest
- Just focused on the next step with God in front of them
- So everyone could clearly see where God was leading (direction)

We can learn from that

Many of us want God to follow **our** plans instead of leading them.

We ask:

- “God, bless this decision.”
- “God, fix this mess.”
- “God, come with me.”

THIS MAY BE A GOOD TIME FOR REFLECTION

- Are you following God—or asking Him to follow you?
- Faith grows when focus on God becomes our priority.

Jesus said

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

- He didn't say exhaust all of your intellect and effort
- He said focus and listen

But before God moves the river, He prepares the people.

[SLIDE] CONSECRATION PRECEDES BREAKTHROUGH

[SLIDE] Joshua 3:5 Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders (**amazing things**) among you."

- God didn't say, "Get ready to celebrate."
- He said "Purify yourselves - be holy"
- They were to be Holy because God is Holy
- The Ark was Holy
- The event itself was a Holy rite of passage
- For them it would have meant
- Bathing, washing their clothes, self-examination, abstinence
- Consecration means setting yourself apart for God
- A word we use more often is Sanctify
- Not perfection, but surrendering the heart completely
- The Old Testament is filled with examples of God calling His people to holiness
- It seems whenever we are getting out of alignment as a nation
- This scripture is quoted or prayed

[SLIDE] 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- God was saying:
- Before I do something great around you,
- I want to do something deep within you.

THE PROBLEM IS:

- Some of us are asking God to remove obstacles
- While He's asking us to remove distractions.

We want:

- Change without repentance
- Breakthrough without obedience
- Miracles without surrender

Paul said the church

[SLIDE] Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ESV

- God wants to prepare the vessel **before** He pours the blessing.
- Paul Encourage Timothy that serving God required something

[SLIDE] 2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

- I am not talking about creating works-based theology
- This about being all-in
- As I said a couple weeks ago
- Do we keep in mind where the blessing comes from?
- Who does the miraculous thing?

- Or are we going to trade God in for what He gives us?

QUESTIONS TO ASK TO ASK OURSELVES

- Is there anything God is asking me to lay down?
- Am I more excited about the miracle/blessing than the relationship?

NOW COMES THE HARDEST PART OF FAITH JOURNEY

[SLIDE] THE WATERS WON'T PART UNTIL YOU STEP IN

[SLIDE] **Joshua 3:15**...as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were **dipped** in the brink of the **water**.

- This is the moment.
- The river is still flowing.
- The flood is still real.
- The danger hasn't disappeared.
- And God says: Step.
- The Jordan didn't part when they *believed*.
- It didn't part when they *prayed*.
- It parted when they stepped in.
- Faith is not waiting for God to make it safe.
- Faith is trusting God when it's still risky.

[SLIDE BLANK] Some of us are waiting on God—but God is waiting on us.

We can be waiting for:

- Perfect clarity
- Guaranteed outcomes
- A sign with no risk

Want to fix a marriage?

- Don't wait for your spouse to change serve/treat them like they already have

Some of you God is calling you to do something new

- But you're too comfortable/well paid/fill in the blank
- To take the step forward

Seldom have I had it all figured out when God has given me direction

- We have made ministry moves without places to live
- I have accepted jobs without knowing what the pay will be
- Or often taken insane pay reductions
- Humbled myself for restoration of something I didn't break
- I'm not saying it was always the practical thing to do
- But it's been a fun ride
- And God has always shown up

Pastor Steve shared last week how Rahab made it into the great hall of faith

But do you know how Hebrews 11 starts?

[SLIDE] **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- I believe that obedience in faith creates the pathway that miracles travel on.
- Your Jordan isn't your end
- It's the entry point to the promised land
- It's the point of no return
- The wilderness is behind you
- You need just need to take a step

One last thing

- Here is a verse that I did not read earlier

[SLIDE] Joshua 3:7 The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will **begin** to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

- No great stories begin with “I almost...”
- When you step in faith, God doesn’t just make a way for you
- He doesn’t exalt you for your good
- He wants to tell another faith story
- He builds a testimony for others to see.

But we will talk more about that next week

You will want to be here

One of the aspects of Christ’s nature that is revealed in the book Joshua
Is the fulfilled promise

At the end of His life Joshua told the people

Joshua 23:14 “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that **not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed**”

- God in His grace and faithfulness sustained and preserved His people
- Bringing them out of the wilderness
- And over the river Jordan
- And eventually into the promised land

You know HE does the same for us in Christ?

- Jesus is the promise that was declared throughout the old testament
- He is the promise of life to all who repent and receive him

Before we leave today, we need to pause—because this moment matters.

- Some of you have been standing at the edge of your Jordan for a long time.
 - You know God is calling you forward...
 - You know the promise is real...
 - But fear, doubt, guilt, or comfort has kept you from stepping in.
 - And the Holy Spirit is saying today:
“The water won’t move until you do.”
- For some it is putting your eyes back on God
 - You have been distracted for too long
 - Get in His Word
 - Refocus
- For some it means it’s time to purify yourself
 - You say you know God
 - But there are a lot of rooms in your life that don’t show it
 - Even as I say it He is lovingly showing you what they are
- He is saying He wants all of you

But today, If you don’t know that you are saved

I want to invite you into a relationship with Jesus

God’s promised one that would take away the sins of the World