

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Joshua 3:1-17

- Joshua has sent out men to spy out the Land and they have come back with a report that has the entire camp excited and ready to enter the land of their destiny. Joshua knows the time is right for them to move, the spies have told him how the inhabitants of the Promised land have heard what the Lord has done for Israel and their hearts and courage have melted and so Joshua is now readying the people to cross over the Jordan.

V1-17

- **V1-4** after three days of preparation its now time to move, and Joshua arises early no doubt starting his day in prayer, in **Is 50:4** says our Lord will arise morning by morning communing with The Father, so that He might here from the Father what He was to do, what He was to say, where He was to go, and **Mk 1:35** says that's exactly what Jesus did.
- At this point the Jordan River was at flood stage as V15 tells us its harvest time, therefore it was tricky for them to cross over it, especially for the little children, the elderly, and all the livestock they had with them. Notice he doesn't ask them how many can swim or how long would it take to build some boats and rafts to transport millions of people, he doesn't ask for the army corps of Engineers, instead he sent those who carried the Ark of the Covenant which was the visible representation of God's presence being among God's people.
- This shows us that even though this appeared to be a natural problem, Joshua understood it as a spiritual problem not to be solved by human ingenuity. When your involved in the work of God you must always remember that its not something you accomplish in the flesh but by walking in the Spirit, therefore all problems are spiritual not fleshly. So Joshua sends in the Levities to carry the Ark of the Covenant, which contains the Ten Commandments written by the very Hand of God, and once you see them crossing then you follow he says.
- The Ark was to be 1,000 yards in front of the people and it served as a reminder of what **Ex 33:14** says that "**My Presence will go before you and I will give you rest**". We need reminders of what God has promised us which is why its so important for us to know His Word, for when were attacked whether in the heart, mind or spirit what God has said about us will prevail for us, reminding us that we are overcomers and not victims > **Ex 17:15**- Moses calls God **Jehovah Nissi**-The Lord is our banner after He defeats Amalek- type flesh.
- **V5-7** before Israel could truly follow the Lord into the Promised Land they first needed to be cleansed, so they are told by Joshua to "sanctify themselves". It's the same for you and I, God has to cleanse us before we can truly follow Him, and that washing comes from the Holy Spirit living inside of us which allows us to now resist the influence of the flesh and to walk in the Spirit > **Gal 5:16-26**- as before we had no power but to give in to the flesh.

- Afterward Joshua tells Israel that they will see “**the wonders of the Lord**” sanctify simply means set yourself apart for God, when we set ourselves apart for God then we’ll be able to see with spiritual eyes the wonderful work of God. As the Levites begin to take the Ark across the Jordan The Lord speaks directly to Joshua telling him “**this day 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**” As we take steps of faith we’ll hear words of encouragement from the Lord.
- **V8-11** Joshua then gathers everyone around and tells them what the Lord wants them to do, and he tells Israel that the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord is going into the water first, but also in saying this Joshua calls God the Lord of all the earth, meaning it doesn’t matter if a person doesn’t acknowledge God or not He still is Lord over everything. This is important because Israel is going to drive out people who worship false gods and don’t believe, and yet their lives are still affected by the very God they have chosen to reject **V10**.
- **V12-13** just as the people faced the great Red Sea and couldn’t cross being surrounded by Pharaoh’s massive army, so this second generation faced with seemingly impossible odds are about to witness the wonderful works of God if they simply walk by faith and be obedient to His Word. What God asks is simple, take one person from each tribe to witness this in order to tell all the others what God has done, and afterward simply trust Me!
- God does the same thing with us, He saves someone who comes back and tells the others of the wonderful works of God, and all He asks is that they believe, and if so He will also show them His miraculous Power as well, but first they must believe the witness.
- **V14-17** so the Priests begin the procession with the Ark of the Covenant some 1,000 yards in front of the people leading the way, and as they approach it, the waters flowing as if they were not going to stop anytime soon, by faith they step into it, and then the River stood still and piled itself up so that a dry path presented itself for Israel to cross over it.
- As I was reading this I couldn’t help but think how before we walk by faith we want to see some proof that our faith is going to be rewarded. So we usually want the river dry before we even make a step, but if that was the case then it wouldn’t be faith that were walking in but just good common sense, God truly called Israel like He calls us to step out in faith.
- Four things I want to point out before we close that God has shown us concerning faith > **1. A Courageous Faith**- Rahab hid the spies in Chapter 2 putting hers and her family life in danger. **2. A Concerned Faith**- Rahab made sure that her family would be safe and secure by bringing them into her home when Israel shows up. **3. A Confident Faith**- Joshua trusted God that He would dry the River as he commanded the Levites to step into it. **4. A Covenant Faith**- Joshua believing all that Gd said and promised He would do.