

Last week we spoke about Rahab and the two spies. Joshua had just been appointed by God to be the next leader of Israel.

God encouraged Joshua to be strong and courageous, promising that He would be with him and that no one would be able to stand against him.

Joshua then shared with the people the promises that God had given to Israel.

Joshua sent two spies to secretly scout out the land of Jericho. During their mission, they came to the house of a woman named Rahab. Rahab lived in a home built into the city wall and was known as an innkeeper.

The king of Jericho learned that Israelite spies had entered the city and sent men to Rahab's house to find them. Rahab hid the spies and gave the king's men false information in order to protect them.

After the guards departed, Rahab spoke with the spies and expressed her faith that the Lord had given the land to Israel. She asked that kindness

be shown to her and her family when Israel entered the land. The spies instructed Rahab to place a scarlet cord in her window as a sign. They promised that everyone inside her house would be spared when Israel conquered the city.

The spies then departed safely and returned to Joshua, reporting that the Lord had surely delivered the land into the hands of Israel.

Joshua 3:1-17

(1) Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and **lodged there before they crossed over.** (2) So it was, **after three days,**

A) Sometimes God will get you to the place before He gets you through the place.

Sometimes you will have to wait for Him to show you, His purpose. Just because you got there fast does not mean the next steps are fast. It is during these times you must wait for God.

(2b) that the officers went through the camp; (3) and they commanded the people, saying, "When

you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and **go after it.** (When God moves you move)

(4) Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. **Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.**"

A) The command was simple. When you see the Ark and the priest follow them but don't get too close, you must stay back 2000 cubits which is 1000 yards, 10 football fields, or 3000 feet. Considering the magnitude of the people this allowed enough space for the Ark to lead without being overrun. Joshua wanted them to follow, not to accompany it.

B) This happens in our life. Instead of following Jesus, we want to walk besides him and ask him a bunch of questions. Sometimes we want to go faster than Him because He is being too slow.

Lamentations 3:25–26 “The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

VVVVVV

C) Familiarity can cause people to hear the man they know instead of the voice of God speaking through the man.

(Tozer, Ravenhill, Wigglesworth, Prince, and Spurgeon, and many others warned of this.)

This is why Moses tent was outside of the camp. This is why Jesus often departed for long periods of time to pray.

We must be careful not to allow the voice of God whether in worship, prayer, or preaching become drowned in familiarity.

(5) And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." (6) Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went

before the people. (7) And the LORD said to Joshua, **"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.**

(8) You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.' " (9) So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." (10) And Joshua said, **"By this you shall know** that the living God is among you, and that He **will without fail drive out from before you** the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

(11) Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. (12) **Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe.**

CHRONOLOGICAL BREAK

CHAPTER 4:

(2) "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, (3) and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves **twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm.** You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' "

(4) Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; (5) and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, (6) that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' (7) Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were

cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

BACK TO CHAPTER 3:

(13) And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap." (14) So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, (15) and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the **priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water** (for the **Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest**), (16) that the waters **which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap** very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. (17) Then the priests who bore the ark

of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.



A) The priest feet dipped into the water. They did not wait for the water to stop before entering while there was still water. Further, not just any water either. The Jordan was overflowing and flooding at this time, so the entering was not at low tide, it was during high tide!

That is faith. You just know that you know...

Joshua 4:1-24

(1) And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan,

(8) And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of

the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

(9) Then Joshua set up twelve stones **in the midst (from the midst)** of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day. (10) So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over.

(11) Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the **LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.**

(14) **On that day the LORD exalted Joshua** in the sight of all Israel; and **they feared him, as they had feared Moses**, all the days of his life.

(15) Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying,

(16) "Command the priests who bear the ark of

the Testimony to come up from the Jordan."

(17) Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan." (18) And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' **feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.**