

10/15/23 Message

Part of Prayers for Victory (2023)

October 14, 2023

Message: Crossing Your Jordan

Series: Prayers for Victory

Recap: This is our fourth message in the series Prayers for Victory. In this series you'll be challenged to be equipped and ready for the battles you'll face in life. More than that, you'll be encouraged to shape your prayers knowing the battle is approaching... even before the battle rages!

Introduction

Mark Batterson wrote a book called 'Circle Maker' and the whole premise of the book is drawing circles around your prayers. Literally drawing a circle, stepping into the circle, and not coming out until your prayer has been answered.

- God honors BOLD prayers because BOLD prayers honor God!

"Circle makers claim God given promises... they pursue God sized dreams... and they seize God ordained opportunities! I want you to become a circle maker that draws circles around your biggest dreams and your biggest fears. I want you to draw circles around your family... your job... your problems... your goals."

Draw circles - but don't walk in circles! Walking in a circle is powerless, consumes all your energy, and gets you nowhere. But praying in circles makes the impossible, possible!

James 4:2 (NLT)

...You don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

The Jordan is Your Obstacle

Moses had led God's people out of slavery in Egypt and God had

“promised” His people a land, the Promised Land. But on the way to the land He promised them, His people demonstrated a lack of faith.

Moses had died and his assistant Joshua was now the leader. They were camping on the banks of the Jordan River. It was all that separated them from their land.

Joshua 1:1-9 (NLT)

1 After the death of Moses the LORD’s servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant. He said,

2 “Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.

3 I promise you what I promised Moses: ‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—

4 from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.’

5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

6 “Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them.

7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.

8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

God called Joshua to lead the group – He called Joshua to draw a circle around this and get it done! He gave Joshua three specific tasks:

- Lead the people into the land
- Defeat the enemy
- Claim the inheritance

God’s Promises to Joshua

God gave Joshua three specific promises:

- Promise 1: You can COUNT on My promises (vv.3-4)
 - God promised it to Abraham (Gen 12)
 - God promised it to Moses (Deut 34)
 - God already gave them the land, all they had to do was claim it
- Promise 2: You can have VICTORY over the enemy (v5)
 - God had told them 10 other nations were living in the land He was promising them (Gen 15)
 - No one will be able to stand against you (v5)
 - I will be with you (v5)
 - I will not fail you (v5)
 - I will not abandon you (v5)
- Promise 2: You will be REWARDED for your obedience (v6)
 - Be strong and courageous (v6)
 - Be strong and courageous (v7)
 - Be obedient (v7)
 - You will be successful (v7)
 - You will be successful (v8)
 - Be strong and courageous (v9)
 - Do not be afraid or discouraged (v9)
 - I will be with you (v9)

Joshua 3:15-17 (NLT)

15 It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge,

16 the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.

17 Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the LORD's Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

Joshua 4:18 (NLT)

As soon as the priests carrying the Ark of the LORD's Covenant came

up out of the riverbed and their feet were on high ground, the water of the Jordan returned and overflowed its banks as before.

Joshua 4:20-24 (NLT)

20 It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River.

21 Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’

22 Then you can tell them, ‘This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’

23 For the LORD your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over.

24 He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the LORD’s hand is powerful, and so you might fear the LORD your God forever.”

God knew they would forget so...

- He told them to build a MEMORIAL so they wouldn’t forget
- Let this memorial be a reminder that God is POWERFUL

A memorial should be a reminder for us to draw a circle around the impossible and then start praying circles anticipating a God sized victory! That’s how we face our Jordan River. That’s how we cross our Jordan River!

What is your Jordan River?

Get ready and let’s cross it!