

Sermon Outline for 9:00 A.M. Service

Where Faith Steps First

Joshua 3-4

Introduction:

- A. Before God gives victory, He establishes three things in our lives:
 1. Faith
 2. Holiness
 3. Obedience
- B. What kind of people must we be before God will entrust us with victory?
 1. Everybody is not prepared for victory.
 2. Everything changes after a victory.
 3. Deut. 8:11-14 Victory will test us as much as adversity.
- C. Israel stands at the edge of Jordan.
 1. This is not just about opposition but also opportunity.
 2. To get to where God wants us, something will be required of us.
 3. Joshua 3:5 (sanctify yourselves) We must be set apart for God.

I. God's Presence goes first.

- A. Joshua 3:3-4.
 1. There is no plan to follow; there is His presence to follow.
 2. Mark 8:34
 3. Faith steps first and self-steps to the side.

II. What faith requires.

- A. Joshua 3:13 (First Step)
 1. When leadership steps first in faith, it opens a way for others.
 2. Leadership obedience affects the entire congregation.
 3. Faith and obedience are different but inseparable.

III. God will always make a way.

- A. Joshua 3:16-17
 1. The nation of Israel did not assist God in the miracle.
 2. The nation of Israel witnessed the miracle of God.
 3. God's Power is revealed when His people trust Him.

IV. God calls us to remember.

- A. Joshua 4:6-7
 1. Anchor points in our lives are needed.
 2. They mark moments in our life that need to be remembered that God has always been Faithful.
 3. If we fail to remember what God did yesterday, we will struggle with tomorrow.

Conclusion:

Three things that occurred before sin ever occurred in their lives:

- A. God was faithful.
- B. God was clear in His instructions.
- C. God was present in their lives.

Sermon Outline for 11:00 A.M. Service

Holy Ground

Joshua 5:1-12

Introduction:

- A. What does God require of us after victory?
 - 1. Winning changes the mindset.
 - 2. We can go from humility to pride quickly.
 - 3. Victory is not the finish line; it's a checkpoint in God's plan.
- B. Israel thought crossing the Jordan was the finish line.
 - 1. The impossible had happened—they crossed on dry ground.
 - 2. They walked into the Promised Land.
 - 3. They were now standing in what God had promised.
- C. God requires holiness before and after victory.
 - 1. Before victory, God is building trust.
 - 2. After victory, God is building character.
 - 3. When Christ enters your heart, everything changes.

I. Sometimes obedience stops you in your tracks.

Joshua 5:1-2

- A. Unresolved sin must be dealt with before advancement.
- B. A victory does not cancel accountability for disobedience.
- C. God will pause your progress until obedience aligns your heart with His plan.

II. Sometimes obedience is painful.

Joshua 5:2-7

- A. The one act God required (circumcision) set Israel apart from the rest of the world.
- B. Obedience can feel painful, inconvenient, or even humiliating.
- C. God marks His people, and sometimes, through what seems uncomfortable, it is to prepare us for the next stage of His plan.

III. Sometimes obedience protects us from failure.

Joshua 5:8-12

- A. You can't advance if you are holding on to the past.
- B. God uses obedience to guard you from repeating old mistakes.
- C. Colossians 1:13 God has rescued us from darkness into His kingdom.
- D. Romans 6:6 Our old self is crucified with Christ.
- E. Philippians 1:6 God who began a good work in us will complete it.

We don't obey God to be freed from sin—we obey because He has already freed us.

Conclusion:

Victory is never the end; it's a stepping stone.