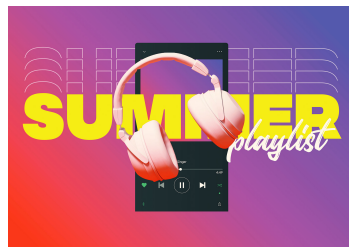


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Consecration as Preparation

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
September 5, 2021



How do we live without regret and experience God's best for our lives?

Joshua 3:1-17 (NLT) Early the next morning Joshua and all the Israelites left Acacia Grove and arrived at the banks of the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing. ² Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, ³ giving these instructions to the people: "When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, move out from your positions and follow them. ⁴ Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you. Stay about half a mile behind them, keeping a clear distance between you and the Ark. Make sure you don't come any closer."

⁵ Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you." ⁶ In the morning Joshua said to the priests, "Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river." And so they started out and went ahead of the people. ⁷ The Lord told Joshua, "Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses. ⁸ Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: 'When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there.'" ⁹ So Joshua told the Israelites, "Come and listen to what the Lord your God says. ¹⁰ Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites ahead of you. ¹¹ Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River!

¹² Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ The priests will carry the Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall." ¹⁴ So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. 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.

What principles can we draw from this as we step into the new territory before us?

1) We keep our eyes on Jesus and follow His lead. v. 11

- **The Ark of the Covenant is a foreshadowing of the person of Jesus Christ.**

2) We model the life of faith to others around us. v. 3-4

3) We pursue holiness because we are partners with God. v.5 Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you."

Consecrate = make or declare something holy & dedicate formally to divine purpose.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NLT) "Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God."

Faith cannot live except in an atmosphere of purity; the slightest disobedience will whither it and leave us exposed to the successful fury of our foes." A. B Simpson

Hebrews 9:14, 22

- **Through Jesus Christ we are declared holy & set apart for God's purposes.**

1 John 1:8-9 (NIV) "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Big Idea: Jesus died to make you holy, so pursue holiness, & watch God do wonders.

So how do you apply this today?

- **Make an honest inventory: What impurity is hindering God's work in and through your life?**
- **Repent & receive the grace only found in Jesus Christ.**
- **Step out in faith & obedience and partner with God.**



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Consecration as Preparation
#7 of 7 - September 5, 2021**

- 1) Last week we talked about moving forward in faith using Abraham as an example. What has God been teaching you in this regard and what steps did you take to walk in faith this past week?

- 2) What regrets do you still struggle with and why?

- 3) Read Joshua 3. What is the context for this passage and what do you observe about the Ark of the Covenant from studying this passage?

- 4) What principles can we apply from this passage to our lives? What does it look like for you to “keep your eyes on Jesus”?

- 5) How did the spiritual leaders model faith and obedience to the Israelites? How can you model faith to those you influence today?

- 6) Why did God command the Israelites to “purify themselves”? Why is holiness important for us as followers of Christ? Read 2 Corinthians 2:7-1 and 1 John 1:8-9. What do these passages reveal about God and about us?

- 7) What impurity is hindering God’s work in and through your life? Confess this to a trusted Christ follower and repent and receive the grace only found in Jesus Christ for this sin.

- 8) In what ways is God asking you to step out in faith and obedience to partner with Him?



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