

JOSHUA

Preparation and Humility

Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. After three days the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.

Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it.” (Joshua 3:1-4)

If God’s going to move...

- **We must be spiritually prepared** – “Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’” (Joshua 3:5)

¶ **Note: low-grade preparation keeps us unusable** – “In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some are for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” (2 Tim. 2:20-21)

What do I need to clean up and clean out?

- **We must be personally humble** – “And the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses...Joshua said to the Israelites, ‘Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that He will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.’” (Joshua 3:7, 9-10)

☛ **Selfishness: what’s in it for me?** – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition...” (Phil. 2:3a)

☛ **Vanity: who’s noticing me?** – “Do nothing out of...vain conceit.” (Phil. 2:3b)

The practice of humility (per C.J. Mahaney in his book, “Humility”)

- Follow the truth wherever it leads
- Seek godly correction and wisdom
- Learn from everyone
- Be quick to apologize
- Celebrate God’s grace in other people’s lives
- Cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving
- Grow in Scripture
- Exalt Christ’s name, not your own
- Laugh
- Sleep

And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD – the LORD of all the earth – set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.

(Joshua 3:13)