

SUNDAY MESSAGE

GET UP & GO AFTER IT

Pastor Ronny Brannen

THE LIFT CHURCH

theliftchurch.tv

THE TEXT

JOSHUA 3

"When you see the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it... Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

JOSHUA 3:3–5 (PARAPHRASED)

This generation had never crossed this way before. They were the children raised in the wilderness — the ones who only knew the stories of the Red Sea secondhand. Now God asked them to trust a new leader, in a new way, toward a new land they'd never seen.

QUESTION ONE

WHAT ARE YOU **LOOKING** AT?

Joshua's instruction was simple: when you see the Ark of God move, get up and go after it. Keep your eyes on what God is doing — not on the leader, not on the circumstance, not on the flood.

Pastor Ronny illustrated this with a boyhood little-league memory: pulled from pitching and sent to second base, he kept his eyes locked on a single pop fly — caught it, tripped over the bag, and it turned into an unassisted double play. **What we're watching determines what we catch.**

He pointed back to Numbers 21 and the bronze serpent: those who kept looking up, even while being bitten, lived. Those who looked down did not. "Though we get bit, we will live — if we keep looking at Him."

“

GOD WOULD RATHER US STEP OUT AND MAKE A MISTAKE THAN REFUSE TO MOVE. HE CAN'T FIX FROZEN.

PASTOR RONNY BRANNEN

QUESTION TWO

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Before Israel crossed, Joshua told them to **consecrate** themselves — a cleansing ritual, coming before God with clean hands and a pure heart. God forces His way into no one's life; He only fills what is surrendered to Him.

Waiting on God isn't sitting still. Pastor Ronny used the image of a desert caravan pressing toward an oasis: those who stop and demand water before moving often don't survive. "We wait on God while doing what we already know to do — until He shows us the next step."

He shared his own story: a 32-year-old brain aneurysm, a colon rupture pressed safely against the abdominal wall, a 95% blockage caught just in time. Doctors and skill are real gifts — but he was careful to give God, "Jehovah Rapha," the credit for the miracle itself.

STEPPING OUT

WET WATER WALKERS

PETER ON THE WATER

When Jesus walked toward the disciples' boat, Peter didn't hesitate — he stepped out. He sank the moment he looked down at the wind and waves, but Jesus reached out, took his hand, and walked him back to the boat.

"I'd rather be a wet water walker than a dry boat rider any day."

THE STANDING STONES

After Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground, twelve men went back into the riverbed to carry out stones — a monument so future generations would ask what happened there, and be told the story of what God did.

We build faith in the next generation by remembering, and retelling, what God has already done.

CLOSING REFLECTION

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

- 1 What are you looking at?** Your problems and circumstances, or God Himself?
- 2 What are you doing** with what God has already placed in your hand — your time, resources, and gifts?
- 3 What do you need** from God today — healing, forgiveness, joy, direction? Seek first His kingdom, and the rest will follow.

Closing charge: "This is a new day, a new step, a new hope. You haven't been this way before — so when you see the Ark of God move, get up and go after it."