

## **TAKE GROUND Part 3 “DEVOTE”**

Joshua 3...on the edge of the Jordan. About ready to cross

-Moses and his generation have died.

-Joshua tells them to get ready to see God at work.

The Jordan River is the boundary between the wilderness and the promised land.

-This river separated them from 430 years of Gods promise

-Hundreds of years of slavery and 40 years of wilderness/desert

-now on the edge

-The promised land is in sight

**The only way across the river is through the river.**

No shortcuts....Sometimes you just need to go through it

**ALL of us have those moments.....STANDING on the EDGE**

-We each have a Jordan River that must be crossed

-and usually more than one

-Life is full of times that we stand on the edge, waiting to take a step

**We all need to take a FAITH STEP TO TAKE GROUND!**

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

**Joshua 3:5-17** Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” <sup>6</sup> Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

<sup>9</sup> Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup>Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup>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.”

<sup>14</sup> So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. <sup>15</sup> Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, <sup>16</sup>the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup>The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

**FIRST STEP: Consecrate yourselves!**

**Joshua 3:5** Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”

What does CONCENTRATE mean?

**Definition: To declare or set apart as sacred: to *consecrate*.**

**Consecration basically means that you are committing everything to God, endeavoring to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, which Jesus says is the first and greatest commandment.**

**-GOING ALL IN!!! TRUST & OBEY!**

You are placing your whole life on the altar, dedicating your entire being to God.

In practical terms, that means that you're deciding to live your life purposefully to glorify God in all aspects of your life.

**Colossians 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

- You will do your job for His glory.
- You will relate to your family for His glory.
- You will worship for His glory.
- You will do everything possible to enhance your relationship with Him.

**YOU ARE GOING ALL IN!!!!**

**OUR PART IS TO CONSECRATE**

**(DECLARE OURSELVES AS SET APART)**

WHAT IS HIS PART?

**HE WILL SANCTIFY US!!**

What does sanctified mean?

To be sanctified means to be set apart for God....to be holy.

-the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.

NOTICE HOW CLOSE THESE TWO ARE....YET THEY ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT!

-Consecrate is to DECLARE or SET APART AS SACRED (A CHOICE)

-Sanctified is to ACTUALLY “BE” SET APART! (A PROCESS)

**John 17 :15-19 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.**

-We let God’s word be truth! Not feelings, or culture

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.**

We are MADE NEW when we come to Christ, and SANCTIFICATION continues as we grow in Him.

He wants to set us apart entirely for His work and purpose, perfecting our hearts in love for Him, and giving us the power of the Holy Spirit to say no to willful sin.

WE CANNOT DO THIS ON OUR OWN!!!

WE DO THIS BY LIVING A LIFE OF SURRENDER!!

**NOW THAT THEY SURRENDERED.....GOD WAS GOING TO BUILD THEIR FAITH:**

**SECOND STEP: BUILD UP FAITH!**

**Joshua 3:9-17 Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. <sup>10</sup>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, Gergashites, Amorites and Jebusites. <sup>11</sup>See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup>Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup>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.”**

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-God was giving them their own RED SEA MOMENT!

-Building their faith to TAKE GROUND!

THEN they crossed over and GOD GAVE THEM JERICHO!!!

-It was a SUPERNATURAL victory!

THEY “TRUSTED” AND “OBEYED” AND WON THE BATTLE!

**THEY CONSECRATED THEMSELVES**

**GOD BUILT UP THEIR FAITH**

**THIRD STEP:** Walk in Obedience

**Psalms 128:1-2 Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

-It is easy to slip back into old ways!

-Continue to TRUST & OBEY!

CHAPTER 6: The fall of Jericho.....MIRACULOUS VICTORY!

-God said not to take anything for themselves! Destroy it all!

**Joshua 7:1-5 But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel. <sup>2</sup> Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai. <sup>3</sup> When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there."**

**<sup>4</sup> So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, <sup>5</sup> who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water.**

**Joshua 7:10-13** The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? <sup>11</sup> Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. <sup>12</sup> That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. <sup>13</sup> "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it.

-BATTLE OF "AI" WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BREEZE!

-BUT there was hidden sin in the camp.

-GOD DOES NOT BLESS OPEN DISOBEDIENCE!

-He BLESSES Trust & Obedience!

VERSE 13: 2 times.....Consecrate yourselves! DO IT AGAIN!

So Joshua called each family of each clan of each tribe before him to find it!

**Joshua 7:19-21** Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." <sup>20</sup> Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: <sup>21</sup> When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

WHEN THE SIN WAS REMOVED.....THERE WAS VICTORY AGAIN!

-SIN HAS ITS WAY OF CREEPING BACK INTO OUR LIVES!

Consecration was more than a ONE TIME THING!

-It was a choice to live out.

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

YOUR SIN AFFECTS YOU

YOUR SIN AFFECTS YOUR FAMILY

“Sin is fun for a season” BUT there is always a price to pay!

**Proverbs 28:13** He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

SO WHAT DID THEY DO?

- 1) They CONSECRATED themselves! GO ALL IN!
- 2) God built up their faith! Crossed over the Jordan on dry ground!
- 3) They had to Consecrate themselves AGAIN!

-Learn to WALK IN OBEDIENCE

-Live lives of SURRENDER!

**2 Chronicles 7:14** “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”