"Stepping Out ON FAITH"

Joshua 3:1-3

The crossing of the Jordan represents passing from one level of the Christian life to another…

There are FIVE principles of FAITH we see in the crossing of the Jordan River:

1. Faith involves WAITING.

Joshua 3:1-2

After the spies returned from scouting the land, Joshua ordered the Israelites to the edge of the Jordan River to await further instruction

- Ephesians 3:20
- At any moment God can shift you from WAITING on it to WALKING on it

2. Faith RECOGNIZES God chooses to work in mysterious ways.

Joshua 3:2-4

Hebrews 13:8

When we face times of crisis or when we need direction in life, we need to learn to be sensitive to the movement of the Lord in and around us

- Jeremiah 29:13-14
- Jeremiah 6:16
- Isaiah 43:19

3. Faith REQUIRES we step out.

Joshua 3:5-8

Joshua's faith was based not only on God's direct statements to him, but also upon previous experience

- Constant movement had characterized Israel's life in the wilderness
    - Hebrew verb (nasa) usually translated "journeyed" is used 89 x's in the book of Numbers
- Here in Joshua 3:6 they are told to "cross over"
    - This is a new word (abar), used 21 x's in the next three chapters
- God's people needed to now prove their faith by stepping out and trusting God when they had no idea how it was going to work out

4. Faith is an OPPORTUNITY that can be REJECTED.

Joshua 3:9-13

Joshua didn't take advantage of the opportunity to exalt himself in the people's eyes

- His total focus was on what God had promised.

Joshua 2:10-11

5. Faith affords God the OPPORTUNITY to DEMONSTRATE His Power.

Joshua 3:14-17

Imagine the faith it required for the priests to step off into the water

- Most of us are not risk takers, we are people that are comfortable with our padded chairs and predictability in serving the Lord

There are a lot of "cross-over" times in our lives

- You will never be more alive in this life than we are at this moment
- Remember as we stand to face these moments… what is frightening is also thrilling in terms of opportunity

STEPPING OUT ON FAITH IS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE DOOR TO BREAKING INTO GOD'S PROMISES

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