Faith That Moves:

Lessons From Joshua's Journey

Faith is not a passive posture. It is not the quiet, comfortable assurance that everything will work out while we sit and wait. Real faith — the kind that changes lives, moves nations, and topples walls — is active, surrendered, and sometimes profoundly uncomfortable. The story of Joshua offers one of the most vivid portraits of what it looks like to trust God in the face of impossible circumstances, and the lessons drawn from his journey are just as urgent and alive today as they were thousands of years ago.

Faith Moves Forward

One of the most natural human tendencies is to anchor ourselves to the past. We build monuments to the moments that shaped us — the victories, the losses, the seasons that felt holy and significant — and then we linger there long after God has called us forward. We romanticize what was, often forgetting that the memory has grown softer and more beautiful than the reality ever was.

When Moses died, God did not tell Joshua to build a memorial and stay beside it. He said, essentially, Moses is gone — now move. The promise God made to His people did not die with Moses. It carried forward, and Joshua was the one chosen to walk it into the next chapter. The calling was not Moses' to keep. It belonged to God, and God was faithful to see it through.

This is a word for anyone who has been holding tightly to a past season — whether it was a ministry that flourished, a relationship that defined you, or even a failure you cannot seem to leave behind. Proverbs 19:21 reminds us that while people make many plans, it is God's purpose that ultimately

prevails. And Philippians 3:13 captures the same urgency in Paul's words about forgetting what is behind and pressing forward toward what God has ahead.

“There is no future in the past!” The question worth sitting with is this: Am I still living in or holding on to yesterday instead of continuing to move toward God's calling in my life?

Faith Steps Into the Water

When Joshua led the Israelites to the edge of the Jordan River, they were not facing a gentle stream. It was flood season. The water was high, the banks were overflowing, and crossing it with at least a million people — including children, livestock, and carts — seemed impossible. And yet God's instruction was clear: step in.

The miracle did not come before the step. It came because of it. The moment the priests carrying the ark set their feet in the water, the river stopped flowing upstream. And what is even more remarkable is that the ground beneath them was not muddy or marshy — it was dry. God did not just part the water. He took care of every detail, right down to the ground they walked on.

This is a pattern worth noticing. God often calls us to move before the miracle is visible. He calls for the step of faith first, and the miraculous follows our obedience. Waiting at the water's edge for God to act before we are willing to move is not wisdom — it is negotiation. And God's promises are not up for negotiation.

The question to consider is honest and searching: *Am I waiting for God to do something miraculous before I will move, when He has simply told me to move so the miraculous can begin?*

Faith Surrenders Our Strategy

In Joshua 5, Joshua encountered a figure standing in the road with a drawn sword. With the instincts of a seasoned warrior, Joshua asked the question any military leader would ask: Are you for us or against us? The answer was '***neither***'. The figure identified himself as the commander of the Lord's army and made clear that God does not take sides in the way we imagine. He is not enlisted into our causes. He is the King, and He invites us to align with His will.

This reframes everything. So often, the prayer of our hearts is essentially, Lord, here is my plan — please bless it. But the Kingdom does not work that way. God is not here to endorse our strategies. He is here to accomplish His will, and the invitation is to discover what that will is and how we fit in it. The better question is not '*what is God's will for my life?'*, but '*what is God's will, and how does my life fit into it?*'

That shift — from self-centered to kingdom-centered — changes the way we approach everything. It moves us from seeking God's blessing on our plans to living inside of His, which are already blessed.

Faith Fights Impossible Battles God's Way

Nothing in the story of Joshua captures the absurdity and beauty of God's ways quite like the battle of Jericho. Jericho was a fortress. Its walls were massive, its gates were sealed, and by every military measure, it was impenetrable. Joshua was a skilled and experienced commander. And God's battle plan was to march around the city once a day for six days, then seven times on the seventh day, with priests blowing ram's horns — and then shout.

There was no battering ram. No siege tower. No tactical maneuver. Just obedience. And when the army shouted in obedience to God, the walls collapsed. Hebrews 11:30 looks back on this moment and spells it out plainly: ***by faith, the walls fell***.

If the walls had come down by Joshua's strategy, Joshua would have received the glory. Because they came down through obedience to an

instruction that made no human sense, God was glorified. That is the point. The impossible battles in our lives are not designed to showcase our abilities. They are designed to reveal God's power to a watching world.

The Invitation

Faith like Joshua's begins at surrender. Surrender of the past. Surrender of comfort. Surrender of our own wisdom and our need to have it all figured out. It is not reckless — it is rooted in the character of a God who is fully faithful, who knows the beginning from the end, and who never starts something He does not intend to finish.

The walls in your life are not too high for Him. The river is not too wide. The past is not too heavy to leave behind. Step forward. Step in. Surrender the strategy. And trust the one who holds every detail in His hands.