

Joshua 3-4 – 8 July 2021

“The Process Of True Faith”

Introduction

*The theme of the Book of Joshua could be “*Will Israel have faith and believe God?*”

*The prosperity of Israel’s future life will be directly proportional to:

*How well (or not) they exterminate the evil, sinful lifestyles of the Canaanites

*How well they act on implementing God’s ways

*It’s all about believing God that His way is best

*As the book of Joshua opened, we looked at some attributes of true faith:

*It’s founded in God’s presence, power & promises

*It’s grounded in God’s character

*It saves & brings new life

***Today let’s look at 3 steps in the process of living out true faith**

1st Step in the process of living out true faith is to respond to God's plan with faith (Chap 3:1-8)

Read Chap 3:1-2

1. For 3 days they're staring at a rushing mighty river barrier
2. This gives ya a chance to determine if you'll act in faith...or in fear
3. Do apparent delays make your fear grow...or your faith in God grow?

Read Chap 3:3-4

1. Command for the people to follow the priests as they bear Ark forward leaving 3000ft (3/4 of a mile)
2. Allows for everyone to recognize that they're led by the Ark representing the presence of God

Read Chap 3:5

1. Responding to God's plan 1st means sitting in purity, waiting for God to move mountains.

2. We often don't recognize God's activity that we should be getting involved in b/c we're distracted about other worldly things
 - a. Distracted by physical work – Mary/Martha
 - b. Distracted by pursuit of riches – Luke 12:16
 - c. Distracted by trials – Sower & the seed
3. Stay in obedience to what you know is right and you'll see God's plan & know how to jump in

Read 3:6-8

1. Why will Joshua be exalted in the eyes of Israel?
 - a. B/c Joshua commands the priests and people to act by faith!
2. When crossing the Red Sea under Moses, 40 years ago, Moses simply put his staff in.
 - a. Now the Israel has to move in faith

2nd Step in the process of living out true faith is to experience God do the amazing (Chap 3:9-17)

Read Chap 3:9-13

1. The drying up of the waters
 - a. 1927 landslides caused Jordan to stop for 21 hours.
 - b. Even if the Lord used a natural landslide or such, this timing (when the priests go in) is still supernatural
 - c. We'll see that once all 2,000,000 or so are across, the water returns
 - d. Only God can use the natural and do the supernatural in His timing at a moment's command
2. Notice vs 10 – By the crossing of the Jordan miracle, they should KNOW God will keep His promises

Read Chap 3:14-17

1. About 2,000,000 people passed on dry ground, yet another part of the miracle
2. Notice vs 15 – this was the “time of harvest”
 - a. Scoffers try tearing apart the Bible as wrong
 - i. Chapter 4 says this is the time of the Passover (March/April)
 - ii. Scoffers says there was no harvest in March or April...that comes later in the summer
 - b. There were many harvests
 - i. Yes the wheat harvest was in July and fruit trees in late summer
 - ii. But flax and barley were harvested NOW
 1. Remember Rahab hid 2 spies in the stalks of flax she had on the roof to dry
3. This was harvest time & it WAS Flood season
 - a. This was a mighty, rushing river & a miracle

3rd Step in the process of living out true faith is to memorialize it for the next generation (Chap 4)

Read Chap 4:1-7

1. Taking stones from under the Jordan to set up a memorial for generations to come
 - a. Not just any stones, but stones from where the priests stood...for depth of meaning
 - b. When spiritual life happens, memorialize it so you can tell your kids
 - c. Have some keepsakes that remind you of a story to tell the kids of the Lord's faithfulness
 - i. Even a wedding photo can be such
2. There's a principal here: Once your kids have learned the Law, transition them to a life of faith
 - a. W/o faith, it's impossible to please God

Read Chap 4:8-10

1. Memorial of 12 stones at Gilgal where people stayed & 12 stones in the Jordan by Joshua
2. Low tide they'd see Joshua's stones & be renewed!

Read Chap 4:11-13

1. Israel came, then the 2.5 tribes of Israel's army and then the priests that bear the ark
2. The crossing is complete, a true act of faith

Read Chap 4:14-18

1. The water returns at just the right time
2. Now even the priests come out and it's complete
3. Joshua is exalted simply for living in faith toward God
 - a. Future generations would be told, 'We had a completely new leader, our trust was in God'.
 - b. Joshua would be exalted in their stories...
 - i. Not b/c of his long reputation as a general
 - ii. Not b/c of his great courage
 - iii. But b/c of his great faith in God to do what He said He would!

Read Chap 4:19

1. 1st month 10th day is the day they get the Passover Lamb & keep it perfect for 4 days.
2. They enter the Promise Land 40 years after leaving Egypt on the Passover
3. Even as they're creating new memories to praise God about in the future, then need to pause to remember God's goodness from the past!
 - a. It's a cycle of remembering & relying, remembering & relying

Read Chap 4:20-24

1. It's all to give praise to, not Joshua or man, but unto God for His power and might
2. In remembering what great things God has done in the past, it should stir us to reverence God for the mighty things He will yet do in the future
3. Each time an extinct fossil is dug up from past, it tells us of the great Flood & should remind us of the coming return of Jesus to judge again

Conclusion

Jesus came to pay for the judgement that we owe. Have you had your sins forgiven by Jesus' death? Have you been brought into eternal life by Jesus' resurrection?

If so, then live a life of faith believing that God has good purpose for you in this life.

Step #1 – Respond to God's plans w/ true faith

- When you're faced w/ a challenge, believe God can do great things and be ready for it
- Live in purity making yourself available to be used of God

Step #2 – Experience God doing the amazing

- Only when we're living in obedience faith, do we see God do the miraculous, praise God

Step #3 – Memorialize it for the next generation

- Don't waste a good "god moment" by not passing it on to those around you...they need it!