

Joshua 3:15 “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.”

Joshua 3:16a “The water from upstream stopped flowing”

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

C. We need to follow the Lord and stay focused on Him daily.

Joshua 3:3 “Giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.”

Luke 4:10b “... Jesus told Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.”^[11] So they pulled their boats up on shore left everything and followed Him.”

Matthew 4:18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ^[19] Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ^[20] At once they left their nets and followed Him.”

Luke 5:27 “... Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow Me,” Jesus said to him, ^[28] and Levi got up, left everything and followed Him.”

Moving Forward by Faith! Joshua 3:1-18 Lesson #7 10/6/24

Joshua 1:16 “Then, they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ^[17] Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as He was with Moses.”

Joshua 3:1 “Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over.”

I. They needed to make preparations before crossing the Jordan.

A. The officers gave detailed instructions to the people.

1. The people learned about the timing of their departure.

Joshua 3:2 “After three days the officers went throughout the camp.”

Joshua 3:3 “Giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.”

2. The people were told to maintain a distance from the ark.

Joshua 3:4 “Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

B. Joshua gave a direct command to the people.

1. They were to prepare spiritually.

Joshua 3:5a “Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow”

2. They would see the power of God work miraculously.

Joshua 3:5b "... the Lord will do amazing things among you."

C. Joshua gave distinct orders to the priests.

Joshua 3:6 "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."

Joshua 3:7 "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."

II. They listened to instructions before crossing the Jordan.

A. The priests were to lead the way by faith.

Joshua 3:8 "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."

B. The people were to listen to the Word by faith.

Joshua 3:9 "Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God."

Joshua 3:10 "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."

Joshua 3:11 "See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you."

Joshua 3:12 "Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe."

Joshua 3:13 "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."

C. The people were to lean on the Lord and follow by faith.

Joshua 3:14 "So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them."

Deuteronomy 29:5 "During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet."

III. They yielded in submission to the Lord and crossed the Jordan.

A. The priest stepped out by faith.

Joshua 3:15 "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."

Joshua 3:16a "The water from upstream stopped flowing"

B. The power of God stopped the flow of water.

Joshua 3:16 "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."

C. The people stepped out by faith on dry ground.

Joshua 3:16b "... So, the people crossed over opposite Jericho."

Joshua 3:17 "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."

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. We need to be spiritually prepared for God to use us effectively.

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

B. We need to step out by faith and trust God to work mightily.