

JOSHUA 7
“Into the Unknown”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO Joshua 3...

LET'S PRAY -

INTRO -

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: ***“Into The Unknown”***

WERE GOING TO BE LOOKING AT JOSHUA 3

FLY OVER OF THE CHAPTER:

(READ V 1-2 NLT)

WAITING 3 DAYS...

- After 40 years of wandering the first thing God tells the people to do is wait
 - There is a military saying... “Hurry up and Wait...”
 - You don't know the next time that God will use you in a great way But we have to be available for that time
 - You can't be used if you don't show up!
 - The biblical application would be 2 Tim 4:2
 - Joshua went early in the morning, It reminds me of a **psalm 5:3 NLT**
- During these 3 days the people would have heard the rushing waters and wondered...
 - Maybe you find yourself at a decision point in your life...
 - Give God some room to work...
 - The people didn't rush to see the waters and start planning to build rafts or bridges, they stayed patient and still...
 - “Be still, and know that I am God!...” **Psalm 46:10 NLT**

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(READ V 3-5 NLT)

IDEA 1 - Preparation Before the Breakthrough

I LOVE THIS: “YOU HAVE NEVER TRAVELLED THIS WAY BEFORE”

- God is trying to take you into uncharted territory in your spiritual life
 - But the promise is that just as the Israelites were guided by the Ark, God is guiding us... Psalm 32:8
- Just like God did with Abraham's life. He led him in the way...
 - Led to leave his land to a place he has never gone before and he was obedient even though he didn't have the full picture of what God was going to do.
 - Joshua in our study was obedient and led the people to the end of the Jordan
 - Key: Faith is not belief in spite of evidence, Its obedience in spite of consequence
 - Genuine Faith is always accompanied by obedience.

VERSE 5 SAYS PURIFY YOURSELVES FOR TOMORROW THE LORD WILL DO GREAT WONDERS

Think on this for a moment...

- The command was spiritual and not physical
 - Joshua didn't send his army soldiers first to prepare for battle, he didn't send his engineers to build a bridge...
 - This is because Joshua knew that crossing over the Jordan was a spiritual matter, not a feat of human engineering
 - Key: God is not looking for greater techniques, He is looking for greater character.
 - It would have been easier to say sharpen your swords and prepare your shields but spiritual, not military preparation was needed
 - [Spurgeon - Lectures to my students]

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SOMETHING ELSE OF NOTE: THERE WAS A DISTANCE CREATED BETWEEN THE ISRAELITES AND THE ARK

- The Ark represents the presence of the Lord but the people were told to have a separation of about half a mile from the Ark
 - Here's the good news... The Ark was a foreshadow of Jesus and now that Jesus has come and died for our sins we can now draw near to the presence of the Lord
 - You don't have to stay back, God wants to have an intimate relationship with you
 - Some of you may be in a long-distance relationship with God
 - Here is the promise of God... **James 4:8 NLT**

(READ V 6-14 NLT)

IDEA 2 - Take the Step

STEPPING INTO THE WATER REQUIRED SOME LEVEL OF FAITH

- Genuine Faith is always accompanied by action.
 - James 2:18 - Faith without works/actions is a dead faith
- There is a difference between Passive faith and active faith
 - If you stay engaged in those little steps of faith is evidence of your faith.
 - Our story tonight is not “One small step for man and one giant leap” It was a small step into the water
 - It may have been cold, and uncomfortable but without the step the waters remain

AS WE GROW IN THE LORD THE STEPS OF FAITH REQUIRE MORE FROM US

- 1. Moses splitting the Red Sea - Held his staff over the water
- 2. Joshua Crossing the Jordan - Dipped their toes into the water
- 3. Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan - Used their cloaks to hit the Jordan River
- 4. Peter bid to walk on water - Fully dependant on God

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- You have the freedom to choose to stay back on the other side of the jordan... you don't have to take these steps of faith in your life
 - Alan Redpath writes, “So many people are content with second best... It’s only a man full of the spirit who can stand up to the challenge of the age”

ANOTHER AREA OF INTEREST IS THE ARK ITSELF

- The Ark is brought up 14 times in 17 verses, and that's because this miracle had everything to do with the presence of God...
 - We always have to ask if a Step of faith is being prompted by the Lord because If not, it will fail.

IDEA 3 - Uncharted Territory

(READ V 15-17 NLT)

THIS WAS THE HARVEST SEASON -

- During this time of year the Jordan river swells due to all the water in the area, and can get up to half a mile wide and 50 feet deep
 - The Jordan river back then was much different than it is today. Population, farms and regulation on the river so that its has just become a shadow of its former self
 - The flooding was a test for them, would they hesitate in fear or would they advance in faith.
- They could have hesitated and said we will come back in the winter and cross then... **1 Corinthians 1:27-29 NKJV**
 - According to our standards, God’s plan is foolishness but he uses his foolish plans to confound the wise
 - [Jiu Jitsu Kid Illustration]
 - Don't think that you are disqualified from God using you because X,Y, or Z. That may be the very reason that God gives you victory... Using the weak things to put to shame the mighty

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- Warren Weirsbe, On Being a Servant of God writes, “God always saves his best for those who let him write the contract of their life”

WHEN THEY CROSSED OVER THEY LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND

- During the 40 years in the wilderness they were given supernatural provision and guidance from the Lord
 - Manna fell from heaven for food
 - They were lead by a literal pillar of fire and cloud
 - Exodus 16:35 NLT
 - They now had to live by Faith and not by Sight
 - This doesn't mean that the Lord removed his provision and guidance from the people but rather they were directed to seek at the miracle worker rather than the miracle
 - That is the same call for us today 2 Cor 5:7 NKJV
“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

CALL WORSHIP UP

APPLICATION

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE LORD TO GUIDE YOU OVER THAT IMPOSSIBLE OBSTACLE IN YOUR WAY?

- God is looking for men and women who are filled with Faith
 - My encouragement to you is to not stay back on the other side of the Jordan
 - Don't be content with second best in your life.
 - God is looking to do great wonders in your life and In this church. Are you willing to prepare yourself for it?

PRAY