

How To Get Over Jordan

Joshua 3:1-6; 14-17

Text: Josh 3:17

(Joshua 3:17) "And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed **clean over Jordan.**"

Introduction:

1. We Need To Examine The Message

A. It involved a challenge (v. 3,4)

(Joshua 3:3-4) "And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. {4} Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore."

1. Watch God

(John 5:19-20) "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. {20} For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel."

2. Follow God

3. Honor God

(stayed 3000 ft. behind the ark)

Illustration:

Some people treat God like a buddy.

B. It involved a command “sanctify” (v.5)

(Joshua 3:5) "And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

C. It involved a commitment (9-13)

(Joshua 3:9-13) "And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God. {10} And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites. {11} Behold, the ark of the covenant of the LORD of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan. {12} Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. {13} And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap."

1. The task rested upon God not themselves

2. Many people worry about God's part

a. Worry over tomorrow (Matt. 6:34)

(Matthew 6:34) "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

b. Worry over material things (Matt. 6:25-33)

(Matthew 6:25-33) "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? {26} Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? {27} Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? {28} And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: {29} And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. {30} Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? {31} Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? {32} (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. {33} But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

(Philippians 4:19) "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

c. Worry over facing things in life
(Heb. 13:5)

(Hebrews 13:5) "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

d. Worry over many things
(Phil.4:6-7)

(Philippians 4:6-7) "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

3. The bottom line is the just shall live
by faith (Rom.1:17)

(Romans 1:17) "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

2. We Need To Expect A Miracle (v.14-17)

(Joshua 3:14-17) "And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; {15} And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) {16} That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt

sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. {17} And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan."

A. There was a problem (v.15b)

(Joshua 3:15) "And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, **(for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)**"

B. There was a plan (v.15)

(Joshua 3:15) "And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)"

C. There was a performance (v.16-17)

(Joshua 3:16-17) "That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. {17} And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan."

3. We Need To Erect A Memorial

A. The purpose of the memorial
(Joshua 4:6-7,21-24)

(Joshua 4:6-7) "That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? {7} Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever."

(Joshua 4:21-24) "And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? {22} Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. {23} For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: {24} That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever."

B. The picture in the memorial (Josh.4:9,20)

(Joshua 4:9) "And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day."

(Joshua 4:20) "And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal."

1. Picture of the faithfulness of God (v.20)

(Joshua 4:20) "And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal."

2. Picture of the faith of the people (a)