

CROSSING THE JORDAN, GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD



Worship: The Lord is My Salvation, God is for Us

Word: Joshua 3, 4 & 5

Joshua 4:19 – 24

19 On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. 20 And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. 21 He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ 23 For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. 24 He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

The people of Israel got up in the morning and approached the Jordan River without any strategy for crossing except to obey Joshua and remember what God had done for their parents at the Red Sea. For three days they camped with the sound of floodwaters in their ears, the sight of the opposite shore reminding them of the mission ahead. For Joshua and the people, the experience of crossing the river would strengthen

their dependence on the Lord and solidify their own place in God’s redemptive story.

At God’s command, Joshua led the nation over the Jordan in a way that strengthened their dependence on the Lord and prepared them for what was ahead.

On a human level, passing over the Jordan is impossible. Both the waters and what is on the other side

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present a grave threat to Israel's life. Yet God proved that He is mighty by letting them pass on dry land. There the Lord gives instructions for a memorial. At the end of the chapter, two purposes are expressed for this

memorial, one each for two different groups, one was for Israel and the next generations, and also for all the kingdom of the earth to see that He is the one true living God.

Discussion:

1. What wonder has God performed for the Christian, and how does this advance the same purpose for his people today? What wonder has God performed in your life recently?
2. What does the memorial reveal about human nature? Who do you turn to when you feel like you are about to cross an over-flooding river? What does that process look like?
3. What "stone" are you setting for the next generation? What are you doing that will reveal or teach the next generation of who God is?