

Boldly Trusting When You Can't See the Other Side

Be Bold

Joshua 3:1-17

November 10, 2019

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

As Ridgewood Church comes face to face with a new and exciting future, we can walk forward together, even when the river seems too wide and the water is running strong. Israel trusted God and crossed the Jordan into a new world. And for us, there's tremendous blessing ahead when we boldly trust, even when we can't see the other side!

This passage chronicles a key moment in the life of Israel. Just as God's people had crossed the Red Sea by his mighty hand, now they would cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

Key Scripture – Joshua 3:1-17

Israel Crosses the Jordan

Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ²At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³and commanded the people, "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. ⁴Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before." ⁵Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." ⁶And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

⁷The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. ⁸And as for you, command the

priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.' " ⁹ And Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God." ¹⁰ And Joshua said, "Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. ¹¹ Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. ¹² Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. ¹³ And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."

¹⁴ So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), ¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

Additional Scripture –

Joshua 1:16-17: And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!"

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

- 1. The boldness we see in Joshua in this passage is remarkable. He had received direction from the Lord, and now he is boldly challenging the Israelites to trust God in these steps of faith. Boldness doesn't just require us listening to God; it also requires that we act on what God is asking us to do. What fears in this passage were overcome as Joshua and the Israelites trusted God and took their next steps?**

- 2. Joshua's leadership in this passage is quite bold. It's clear that Joshua's boldness came from the Lord and not from his own abilities. He gives credit and credence to the Lord in how he calls people to action. Boldness isn't about a personality trait or something that certain people have and others don't; boldness comes from the Lord to all who seek it and receive the call. Do you consider yourself a person of boldness in the Lord, or do you feel this is something you need to ask of the Lord?**



3. **Trusting God's perspective instead of our own requires a releasing of fears and barriers to the BOLD steps He is asking us to take. What are your current fears and barriers to generosity, and how can your small group be praying for you in this?**

4. **As you pray about your BOLD generosity commitment, what are some of the traits of Joshua crossing the Jordan that you desire that God instill in you so that you can fulfill the BOLD calling He has for you?**

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

Boldly Honor God and Put Him First

Taking Jericho was a very difficult thing to do. From Joshua's men to Rahab the prostitute, each needed to boldly put God's will above their own. In order to make Jesus known in our community we must be committed to putting God first.

Joshua 6:1-27

