

Standing on the Edge

Joshua 3

For generations, God had promised the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham that they would inherit a fertile land. They lived in the land for a time, but famine forced them to move to Egypt. There they were enslaved for hundreds of years, until God called Moses to lead them to the Promised Land. But because of their disobedience, the 40 day trip turned into 40 years and all the adults died. Now, the children and grandchildren of those slaves were standing on the eastern bank of the Jordan River. On the other side of that river lay the land their ancestors had dreamed about, the culmination of a promise made by God to Abram over 600 years earlier. Likewise, this morning I want to talk to a people and a church who are standing on the edge of something wonderful.

I. A Direction Determined By God – Vs. 3.

The ark was the beautiful, gold-covered box with two gold cherubs on the lid. It contained the Ten Commandment carved in stone by the very finger of God, the Pentateuch, a jar of manna, and Aaron's staff. The ark was Israel's most sacred treasure and a powerful visual reminder of God's presence and power. Joshua's instructions gave the people great hope. They were not crossing into a land inhabited by enemies alone; God, as symbolized by the ark, was going to lead them.

It's what Joshua did not say that is important. He didn't say, "Follow me!" This was about following God. And he was specific about keeping a distance between the ark and the people.

"Some people's idea of a preferable future is nothing more than a return to a glorified past."

II. A Heart Cleansed By God – Vs. 5

To the Israelites, consecration was symbolized by bathing and putting on clean clothes. Why did God require that they recommit themselves to Him totally before crossing the Jordan. Consecration means to set something aside for a holy purpose.

We must let Christ change us so we will have the strength to take God at His Word and move on to the task of growing spiritually and being blessed. The reason so many of us stand on the edge, year after year, never moving into that Promised Land of faith, is that we are unwilling to consecrate ourselves.

III. A Confidence Given By God – 9-10, 15-16, 4:20-24

Just as God had parted the water for Moses, he parted it for Joshua. The priests stood in the middle of the river, while all Israel crossed over into the Promised Land!

A world is looking at us to see if there is anything to our faith. A world is looking to us to see if it makes any difference to know Jesus. The world is looking to see if this Jesus really changes lives.

Hernan Cortez.

Don't be satisfied on that plateau of living you have right now, but move on out for God in the confidence that He will give us the Holy Ghost power to follow Him wherever He leads.