“A Life Lived for God” [The Book of Joshua]

**06.06.21 “Back on Track” Joshua 4:1-3**

Review from week: “*A Fresh Start”*

The crossing of the Jordan River by the Israelites.

We considered four different components of their crossing.

1. Commitment of the *People*

Proverbs 29:25 *“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”*

1. Priest’s Obedience
2. The Reward of Faith

The waters that were cut off from flowing from the city Adam, the effect of *Adam’s* original sin which flowed down to *humanity* was *cut off* by the *Ark* (a picture of Christ). Pastor Mark Trotter, “*52 Weeks of Pursuit*”

1. Leave their past behind

It’s Joshua that’s leading them into the Promised Land, this “New Life” for the Israelites, mimicked the “New Life” that the Lord intends for us to live as we follow our Joshua, the Lord Jesus Christ

**Today’s Message: *“Back on Track”***

**Joshua 4:1-3** *“1 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,*

*2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, 3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.”*

1. **Their Arrival** *“1 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan,...”*

The four priests who were bearing the Ark are still standing in the middle of the dry river-bed; the upstream water is still standing like a wall displaying the awesome power of God to every single Israelite.

**God’s Miraculous Deliverance Power!**

**Romans 10:9-13** *“9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

**Matthew 16:24** *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”*

**Are you absolutely sure that you’ve arrived?**

**Have you gone from lost to saved?**

**Romans 6:23** *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

*Salvation* is not through:

* Church membership
* A Religious ceremony
* Water baptism
* Our Good works
* Birthright (No one’s born a *Christian*)

**Matthew 4:19** *“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

**The Lord compels us to tell the people of our world of His great love!**

1. Their Arrival
2. God’s Mediator *“…that the LORD spake unto Joshua,….”*

**Joshua 1:17-18** *“17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things* (not really)*, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. 18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.”*

**Exodus 20:19** *“And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”*

**God wants to communicate to His people, He uses a Mediator.**

**1 Timothy 2:5-6** *“5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

**The Lord Jesus Christ became our Mediator**

**Hebrews 4:16** *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

**1 John 2:1** *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”*

**God speaks to us through His word which He promised to preserve throughout time.**

**Psalm 12:6-7** *“6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”*

**Revelation 22:18-19** *“18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

**God has given us the complete cannon of scripture!**

**John 1:14** *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

The Word is Jesus.

He is our Mediator.

1. **The servants of God** *“2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,…”*

Consider the number of *men* to be selected, one man from each of the twelve tribes:

1. *Reuben*
2. *Simeon*
3. *Judah*
4. *Issachar*
5. *Zebulun*
6. *Benjamin*
7. *Dan*
8. *Naphtali*
9. *Gad*
10. *Asher*
11. *Ephraim*
12. *Manasseh*

Each tribe had its own identity and character which came from their name sakes.

*Prophesied by Jacob in Genesis 49.*

**The tribe of Dan**.

**Judges 18:30** *“And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.”*

**The tribe of Dan had settled on worshipping idols.**

**Genesis 49:17** “*Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.”* A “*SERPENT*”

**Deuteronomy 33:22** *“And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan.”* A “*LION*”

**A “SERPENT” & A “LION”**

Revelation 12:9 *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”* In *Genesis 3*, the *devil* appears in the form of a *serpent*.

1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”* The devil is described as a lion.

Our Lord selected His twelve disciples and one that would betray Him.

Judas is from the tribe of Dan

Where do our loyalties lie? Would we betray our *Savior*?

1. The Landmark of *God 3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.”*

**Why would He instruct them to take these *stones* to their camp?**

The Lord doesn’t want this to be an experience for just these twelve men; this memorial or landmark was for all the people.

*God* calls us:

To Holiness

To Service

To offer Forgiveness

To display Mercy

To live a life of Righteousness

To live sanctified from the *world*

***We’ll need spiritual landmarks in our lives to remind us of God’s Power, His Promises, & His Faithfulness***

**Romans 8:38-39** *“38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 10:13** *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

**Questions we need to ask ourselves:**

1. Have I arrived? Am I truly a child of *God*?

2. Am I listening to *God’s* Mediator? Do I have ears to hear and heart that’s receptive to the *Lord*?

3. Am I a Servant of *God*? Is my obedience earnestly to my *Savior*? Does the *god* of this world have my loyalty?

4. Do I have *Spiritual* landmarks in my Life? And do I live with the confidence they’re intended to bring?

If we’re truly a child of God, let’s live a life that ensures that we’re living for God now and that we finish right.

**2 Timothy 4:6-7** *“6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:”*

May the same be said of us and if you’re not on course to finish right, today can be your day to get *“Back on Track”*