

Joshua 3

v1

“And Joshua rose early in the morning”

- CGL: the thirty days of his (Moses) mourning ended the seventh of Nisan or March; two days before they were ended the spies were sent, who returned on the eighth day of the month; and the morning following Joshua rose early, which shows his readiness and alacrity to proceed in the expedition he was directed and encouraged to:
- May we have this same drive, strength and courage to rise early. To set ourselves to the task that The Lord has given us. May we rise early. There are so many reasons to stay in bed, delay and turn back but may we deny ourselves and get up and be about our Father's business.

v4

“for you have not passed this way before.”

- These people had only ever known Egypt and/or the wilderness. Similar to being born of the flesh and having no knowledge or experience of the Spiritual/Born Again life.
- They had no idea how to navigate and survive in this new terrain.
- They were ignorant of the path ahead. The Lord was their shepherd. He knew the way that they would take. They were simply to trust The Lord and obey/follow His leading.

v5

“Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you”

- They were to prepare themselves to see The Lord move among them. There was to be an expectancy and a readiness for His presence.
- Do we take the time to prepare for His presence? Do we come with an expectancy for Him to come in His holiness, majesty.
- We ought to have a dreadful fear of His presence, His omnipresence. I believe this can't be taught or understood but comes by given revelation. The more we fear Him the more we will rejoice in His love, mercy and tenderness.

v7

“This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.”

- Leadership and the responsibility/authority over people's lives is an incredible burden/weight.
- Just like Moses, Joshua would become the focus of Israel's discontent. He would carry the grumbling and the grudging. It is so easy to tear a man down and find where he is lacking. The flesh is naturally lazy and looks to blame others. As we see time and again through Exodus.
- The Lord would lift up and reinforce Joshua's position and designation before the people.
- It is so imperative that the people know and recognise that God has chosen and placed an individual into leadership. It is no longer the mere authority of man and his fleshy opinion but a man who speaks on behalf of The Lord, according to His authority and power. To stand against Joshua would be to stand against God!
- What a wonderful and precious comfort to Joshua also. He already believed it to be so... But here is a precious sign and confirmation.

v9

“Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God.”

- He did not share his words. Not the words of Joshua!
- The words of The Lord your God! Much like a preacher/teacher today, God spoke to His people through an individual. May we listen to hear what the Lord our God is saying to us. Do not listen merely to hear what a man might say but hear The Lord! What is He speaking to your heart through that man.
- He calls them to “come here”. Leave your tent, your seat, what you are doing... Come and congregate together and let us listen together.

v10-13

“Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and that He will without fail drive out from before you...”

“the waters of the Jordan coming down from above shall be cut off and they shall stand in one heap.”

- This generation had not seen the plagues in Egypt, but they knew them well, they had already heard of or seen for themselves The Lord's mighty hand in many instances. The pillars of cloud & fire, manna, quail, God's fire on the mountain, the tabernacle....etc They were well aware of His sovereign power and might. And yet He gives them a sign and a promise.
- The promise is for the fight. They would have to arm themselves and prepare for battle. They would need to be trained and ready. They were entering into a time of war... But The Lord would drive out the enemy. As the people obeyed, trusted and moved in faith, The Lord would fight for them and lead them into victory! The land was promised but it was a promise to be claimed.
- The Living God would be among them. He would be with them. His presence would be with His people. This is the tender heart of The Lord. In all of this, in everything, The Lord desires to commune with His beloved people. He desires to be with them/among them. We are not left to fight on our own. He does not leave us to fend for ourselves. But let's not get complacent, familiar, comfortable for our God is “the Lord of all the earth”. He longs to dwell among us. Let us keep our hearts and minds aware of His presence.

v17

“all the Israelites passed over on dry ground”

- Exodus 14:22 “And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground...”

- Just as they had passed over the Red Sea on dry ground, they also passed over Jordan. Just as The Lord was with Moses, so he was with Joshua.
- Similar to Elijah & Elisha
- The first crossing had been one of deliverance in that they had crossed from bondage to freedom.
- They left behind the old, faithless flesh man who leaned on his own understanding; and wandered from place-to-place learning that the selfish flesh brings as much death and destruction as Egypt; learning that they were still in bondage but to themselves; showing that the flesh had to die and that there needed to be a new life before the promise was entered into.
- This crossing is symbolic of the New Birth. No longer wandering in the wilderness of confusion and leaning on the flesh but now entering the Promised Land. A land that still needs to be conquered and taken by faith and obedience, a land of Spiritual battle and Spiritual victory.