

***You will know the way to go***

**Joshua 3:1-10, 15-17**

<sup>1</sup>Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. <sup>2</sup>After three days the officers went throughout the camp, <sup>3</sup>giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. <sup>4</sup>Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it.” <sup>5</sup> Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.” <sup>6</sup> Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. <sup>8</sup>Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’” <sup>9</sup> Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. <sup>10</sup>This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

<sup>15</sup>Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, <sup>16</sup>the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the

Arabah (the Salt Sea ) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup>The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

**There have been specific moments when God has given a great harvest.**

Sometimes it has happened suddenly without warning.

At other times, God has required specific actions that precipitated the harvest.

Every generation has not witnessed these times of harvest.

***It was at harvest time when God brought Israel to the Jordan River to go over into Jericho.***

**Everything they had been through in the exodus was about to come to an end.**

God was bringing them into the promise and blessing that He had given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

All of the land and the blessings of God was before them, on the other side of Jordan.

**God told Joshua: "<sup>10</sup> This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites." Joshua 3:10**

***The ability of hostile men to inhibit the forward advancement of God's people and purpose was suddenly going to be removed.***

It was a moment in history.

**This has happened several times in history when God suddenly brought His blessings on His people, and the resistance of evil was removed.**

When God does this, He is preparing to bring in a great harvest.

He is ushering His people into the time of His blessings.

***The same kind of thing happened in Acts 2:41.***

God suddenly poured out His Spirit.

3,000 men plus women and children were added to the church.

The 120 men and women in the upper room were very aware of their human weakness.

They needed power from God to do what Jesus said.

They were going to be ushered into a ministry that would bear witness of the power of the resurrected Christ.

The world would know that Jesus was alive by what happened in them and to them.

We know that we cannot advance the kingdom of God on our own strength, wisdom, or cunning scheme.

The church age has tried everything that it can to do this.

***When the 120 people went into the upper room they were empowered and went into their inheritance.***

In the power of the Holy Spirit, 3,000 men plus women and children were added to the church in one day.

**In our text, they were crossing Jordan at the time of harvest to get their inheritance.**

You and I have been given an inheritance.

Jesus has gone ahead of us to prepare a way for us to receive the inheritance that God has prepared for us.

**He said:** *"If I go, I will pray to the Father that He would give you the Holy Spirit."*

We must lay hold of the things of God and receive the power of God as we never have.

The Holy Spirit is going to bring us into the inheritance that is in Christ.

***Our inheritance is everything that Christ is and has provided for us.***

***When the 120 came out of the upper room with their inheritance, they were met with a throng of people.***

*God was going to reveal through them the glory of the resurrected Christ.*

They were filled with the Spirit of God and great boldness was upon them.

They were possessed with an ability to believe that God was able to do the impossible.

***All of a sudden, when Peter began to speak, the resistance was gone.***

All of a sudden, people began responding and started receiving what God was giving.

***In our text it was harvest time.***

***Jordan was at flood tide.***

***The river was outside its borders.***

*The people were faced with something that looked impossible. When they looked at it, they must have felt that it was impossible to go forward.*

***We are in a time when our society has spilled out past all natural boundaries which God has laid out for life and behavior.***

**2 Timothy 3:2–4 (NIV84)**

<sup>2</sup>People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,  
<sup>3</sup>without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,  
<sup>4</sup>treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—

***We are living at the edge of our own society, where those things that are good are being despised and people are living outside what God has ordained and blessed.***

*We are going to be stunned at the depth of lawlessness and wickedness our world is being plunged into.*

*Mankind is casting off restraint and acting out the lawlessness that is in the heart as a result of the fallen state. Evil is now becoming good and good is being considered evil.*

***At times it appears that there is no hope for God to do what He has promised.***

***It is at this season that God has called us into new life in Christ.***

*It is for one purpose.*

*God has left us on this earth for this one purpose to gather in the harvest.*

***I believe we are in a moment of time when God is about to do something we have never seen before.***

This is a time of great harvest.

God has primed the world for this.

God has laid this out before this generation.

For some reason, God has chosen and prepared **us** and **this generation** for this moment in time.

**It is not by mistake that we are at this crossroad, at this time.**

***From the time that God spoke to Abraham, he planned the time of harvest that Joshua and Israel were facing.***

***It was time for them to enter into the heritage He had for them.***

***In much the same way, God has promised a time of revival and great outpouring of His Spirit and blessing for the last days.***

He said He would pour out His Spirit on all people.

***What He promised, no contrary or evil forces would be able to hinder.***

***When God brought Israel to that place, He had specific instructions for them to follow in order for them to receive what He promised.***

***The Lord instructed Joshua to send leaders throughout Israel and tell the people what they should do.***

**In Joshua 3:3–4 (NIV84) Joshua was:**

<sup>3</sup>giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions

and follow it.

<sup>4</sup>Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

***They were to be going down a path they had never been before and God wanted to bring them safely into His blessing.***

Just like Israel, I believe God is bringing us into something we have never seen before.

Israel had witnessed many wonderful miracles and the awesome power of God.

In the past, God led them by a pillar of cloud or a pillar of fire.

God had fed them with manna from heaven.

He had divided the Red Sea and brought them across on dry ground.

***Now, God was taking them to something they had never been before.***

***The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord represented the Spirit and presence of God among the people.***

Now, God appointed spiritual leaders who were set apart to carry the Ark of God and lead God's people.

*I pray that God will put His Spirit and anointing upon the leaders of the Church today to lead God's people rightly.*

***If we carefully follow God's directions, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will successfully enter into the blessing that God has prepared.***

***Not only will we enter the blessing of the harvest God has prepared, we will also see God defeat all of our enemies.***

**Joshua 3:5 (NIV84)**

<sup>5</sup>Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

**The people needed to prepare themselves for what God was going to do.**

Amazing things were about to happen, but they had to be prepared.

There are things God is about to do that we cannot enter into unless we consecrate ourselves to God.

***Part of their consecration was to follow the Ark and those who carried it.***

***This is a walk of faith.***

***The Jordan River was at flood tide during the time of harvest.***

*The priests who carried the Ark were to go and stand in the River.*

*This was how they would know that the living God was among them.*

*He would drive out their enemies, and give them the land.*

**Joshua 3:13 (NIV84)**

<sup>13</sup>And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

As soon as the priest stepped into the Jordan, God stopped the water and dried out the river bed.

All of the people passed over on dry ground.

They went straight to Jericho and God was glorified among His people.

***We need to get ready for what God is about to do.***

*God is ready to do something that this generation has never seen before.*

*Get ready!!!*

***We are going to have to walk with God and not be afraid or intimidated at the flood that is going on around us, or the evil that is overwhelming.***

***As soon as they stepped out into the Jordan, God provided a way that they had not seen before.***

***At the same time God provided the solution to the situations that seemed impossible minutes before.***

*God is preparing us to be the salt and light in this world so that the harvest can be brought in.*

*The instructions to Joshua and Israel were specific and clear. They had never been that way before, so God wanted them to have a clear direction before they set out.*

***They were to follow the ark.***

*The presence of God and the leading of the Spirit will be a guide to us.*

*None of us are adequate within ourselves.*

*We need the Spirit of God to rest on us.*

*We need His guidance.*

*If we will follow Him, He will lead us into the harvest He has prepared.*