



Lexington
Baptist Church

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STEPPING INTO OUR FUTURE OVERCOMING OUR FEARS | JOSHUA 3 Pastor Mark Owens

"Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time." - Marian Wright Edelman, born in South Carolina in 1939

We are One people, serving One God, with One mission, awaiting One glorious future.

How do we overcome our fears?

Joshua 3 teaches us that the greatest obstacle before God's people is rarely the river in front of them. It is often the fear within them.

Follow God's Presence

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. - Joshua 3:1-6

Takeaways from the Ark of the Covenant in Joshua 3:

1. We should not move until we see God is moving.
2. We should not move ahead of the Lord.
3. We should not move until we see God has prepared the way.

Prepare Ourselves for God to Work

Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." - Joshua 3:5

We cannot ask God to do remarkable things while neglecting our own spiritual readiness.

- We long for revival without repentance.
- We want God's blessing without surrender.
- We pray for miracles without striving for holiness.

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Know Who God Really Is

The 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."⁸ And 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." - Joshua 3:7-13

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." - Joshua 3:10

Joshua calls God:

- *"the living God"* (verse 10)
- *"the Lord of all the earth"* (verses 11 and 13)

We Trust God and Take a Step

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. - Joshua 3:13-16

Church, are we willing to get our feet wet?

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. - Joshua 3:17

God has given us His church so that we can:

- Encourage one another.
- Pray for one another.
- Carry one another.
- Walk with one another.
- Overcome our fears with one another

Why should we serve?

Because every act of service reflects the character of Christ.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. - Mark 10:45

Because every believer has been given spiritual gifts to serve.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. - 1 Peter 4:10

Because serving is evidence of spiritual maturity.

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. - Ephesians 4:12

Because serving advances God's mission.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Fear will always keep us where we are, but faith calls us to follow God wherever He is leading.

It is Signing Day! Where are you committing to serve?