

CROSSING THE JORDAN

Josh 3:14-17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God's people were marching toward the promise land and had come to a place that looked impossible for such a great number to cross, for the Jordan was at flood stage
- B. We as God's people today are marching toward the promise land and we also find obstacles that look impossible for us to cross or overcome
- C. Let's look at the Israelites crossing of the Jordan river and maybe we can learn some lessons that will help us in our journey to the promise land

DISCUSSION:

I. WE SEE FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

- A. Sight would say this crossing is impossible
 - 1. River at flood stage and very swift – normal width about 100 feet at flood stage in some places about ½ mile
 - 2. Number of men 600,000, so with women and children they must have approached 2 or 3 million; then add in cattle and goods
 - 3. Let me give you some perspective.
 - a. Population of Alabama about 5 million; combined population of Huntsville, Birmingham and Montgomery around 600,000
 - b. It is said that allowing just 1sq. ft. a person it would take 46 acres for 2 million people to assemble. (40 acres is 1/4 mi. sq.)
 - 4. Imagine half people in Alabama assembled to cross Tennessee River when flooding
- B. The priest stepped on out into the water
- C. Many times in our lives we must lean on our faith in God and wade out in the Jordan of our lives Heb 11:6
 - 1. This, however, cannot be a blind faith Rom 10:17
 - 2. The Israelites had a command for their faith to rest on

II. WE SEE ALSO OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD

- A. Faith and obedience are inseparable Jas 2:26
 - 1. Their faith was demonstrated by obedience
 - 2. Abraham demonstrated his faith Heb 11:8; Jas 2:21
- B. Faith man preaches is different from Bible faith
 - 1. Man says faith alone - God said faith & works Jas 2:22
 - 2. If priests had not walked into the water it would not have parted
 - 3. If Israelites had not stayed on the path God had provided they would have perished
- C. Christ became the author of eternal salvation to all that obey him Heb 5:8-9
 - 1. If faith had not led them to obey they would never have crossed the Jordan
 - 2. Remember their faith failed them the first time they came to the promised land Num 13
 - 3. Our faith that falls short of obedience is not saving faith

III. WE SEE A GREAT INFLUENCE FOR GOOD

- A. The priest had a great influence on the Israelites
 - 1. The people followed their leadership
 - 2. Through this they (people & priests) were strengthened
- B. The people had an influence on one another
 - 1. They ALL left their tents and followed
 - 2. Had either the priest refused to go or the people refused to follow they would not have crossed
- C. Likewise, leaders in the Lord's church (elders) today have a great influence on the people over whom they are overseers Acts 20:28
- D. Likewise, the people have an influence on the leaders 1Thess 5:12,13; 1Tim 5:17
 - 1. For elders to lead, people must follow
 - 2. For people to follow, elders must lead

IV. WE SEE TRUTHFULNESS AND POWER OF GOD'S WORD

- A. God made a promise to Israel
 - 1. When the priest's feet were in the water it would cease to flow Josh 3:13
 - 2. It happened just as God said it would
- B. When God speaks his word is true and powerful Jhn 17:17; Heb 4:12
- C. All of God's promises will come true 2Pet 3:9
 - 1. God has promised us salvation even as he did the Israelites here at the Jordan
 - 2. We must believe in this promise strong enough to wade out in the Jordan that is before us

CONCLUSION:

- A. Things written aforetime were written for our learning Rom 15:4
- B. We can learn four great lessons from the account of the Israelites crossing of the Jordan
- C. That of faith, obedience, influence, and the truthfulness of God's Word
- D. Christ has indeed become the author of eternal salvation to all that obey him Heb 5:8-9
- E. Have you obeyed him, that is his plan he left for us to follow? Have you started to cross the Jordan in your life?