

New Ground: Celebration and Anticipation Joshua 3-4

Even when everything is new, we can find our self facing the same old problems. Today we're looking at the life of Joshua to see how to step into a new place celebrating what God has done and anticipating what He will do.

Experience // Expectation
Celebration // Anticipation

Joshua 3:7-8

The Lord told Joshua, "This very day I will begin to honor you before all Israel so they will know that I am with you just as I was with Moses. Instruct the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, 'When you reach the bank of the Jordan River, wade into the water.'"

Joshua 3:17

The priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan. All Israel crossed over on dry ground until the entire nation was on the other side.

Joshua 3:9-11

Joshua told the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God!" Joshua continued, "This is how you will know the living God is among you and that he will truly drive out before you the Canaanites... Look! The ark of the covenant of the Ruler of the whole earth is ready to enter the Jordan ahead of you.

C.S. Lewis

I was assuming that if the human mind once accepts a thing as true it will automatically go on regarding it as true, until some real reason for reconsidering it turns up. In fact, I was assuming that the human mind is completely ruled by reason. But that is not so. For example, my reason is perfectly convinced by good evidence that anaesthetics do not smother me and that properly trained surgeons do not start operating until I am unconscious. But that does not alter the fact that when they have me down on the table and clap their horrible mask over my face, a mere childish panic begins inside me. I start thinking I am going to choke, and I am afraid they will start cutting me up before I am properly under. In other words, I lose my faith in anaesthetics. It is not reason that is taking away my faith: on the contrary, my faith is based on reason. It is my imagination and emotions. The battle is between faith and reason on one side and emotion and imagination on the other.

Joshua 4:5-7

Joshua told them, "Go in front of the ark of the Lord your God to the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to put a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the Israelite tribes. The stones will be a reminder to you. When your children ask someday, 'Why are these stones important to you?' tell them how the water of the Jordan stopped flowing before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the water of the Jordan stopped flowing."

Joshua 4:19

The people went up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and camped in Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.

Joshua 4:24

He has done this so all the nations of the earth might recognize the Lord's power and so you might always obey the Lord your God.