

Pressing on to Maturity:

Cross over ...and stay crossed over.

Joshua 3-4

What is the significance of this crossing

The wilderness was a reminder of their failure:

Psalm 78:40 How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert!

Psalm 106:14 But craved intensely in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

Ezekiel 20:13 "But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness."

This matter of entering the place of promise would be a matter of their faith obedience.

Still living in defeat?

Fears? Lust? Anger? Unforgiveness? Bitterness?

Why? The Red Sea was the sovereign work of God that removed forever the bondage of Egypt.

The Jordan moved them from immaturity to living for His promises and success.

Like Yeshua dying for our sins without our doing anything. But the Jordan required our faith to be blessed. Even as our growth and blessing requires our faith and dependence on Him.

How do we cross and stay crossed? Cross the Jordan!

Why stop the Jordan?

1. To affirm Joshua as a leader, 3:7
2. To demonstrate “a living God” is in their midst, 3:10
3. To reaffirm His promise to give Israel the land, 3:10
4. To get across the flowing river, 3:13.
5. To parallel the crossing of the Red Sea, 4:23
6. To witness to all the peoples of the earth that God of Israel is mighty, 4:24a
7. So that you might revere the Lord forever! 4:24b



How do we stay crossed over?

1. Concentrate upon the Lord, 3:3-4
2. Consecrate to the Lord, 3:5
3. Cooperate with the Lord, 3:13
4. Commemorate unto the Lord, 4:7

1. Concentrate upon the Lord, 3: 3-4



What's that mean? The several million would be like a mob. **So the instruction is “don't get to close so you know which way to go.”**

Keep some distance a way that you may see the ark itself, that's what you follow. **No longer the pillar of fire and smoke, but the ark.** This was the symbolic representation of the Lord's person, presence and power (13). **They were to follow the Lord Himself, not merely the guy in front.**

1. Concentrate upon the Lord, 3: 3-4



In a crowd, all you can see is the head in front of you.

Look on the Lord, not the guy in front of you, “that you may know the way that you are to go.”

In the army we would go on midnight marches for miles exhausted. At one point one of the guys fell a sleep while walking and walked off the road into a shallow ditch!

That’s not the bad part, the four guys behind him just followed each other into the same ditch!

1. Concentrate upon the Lord, 3: 3-4

Need to “look unto Yeshua the author and finisher of our faith” not just the person in front of you. **No longer misled and discouraged by others.**

1 Peter 2:21-23

At home or at work are you looking to Him and not those you're with or opposed?

2. Consecrate to the Lord, 3:5

They were to have Him do wonders tomorrow they had to be consecrated today!

To consecrate yourself is to set yourself apart, unto and from.

Unto God and from the wilderness they were now leaving: i.e., the wilderness of rebellious attitudes and carnal ambitions.

2. Consecrate to the Lord, 3:5

In any activity or sport to the degree you sacrifice toward the goal the more likely you are to succeed in reaching it.

To be the great player, Peyton Manning watches films, gets his rest, doesn't smoke and keeps his focus. The great football players stay in shape to be ready to play and succeed.

Get clean; stay clean. Only a clean vessel can hold clean water.

2. Consecrate to the Lord, 3:5

Unto the God they now look to! **You can't set yourself apart from that which you can't see**

Let us from the race looking unto Yeshua!

Are you ready to be blessed? Are there areas of your family, relationship, business life that are not pleasing to Him? Are sleeping around?

Any one you need to forgive? Any habits you need to turn away from? **Are you cleansed in Messiah's atonement?**

3. Cooperate with the Lord, 3:13

Step into the water. The water was overflowing from the melting ice from Hermon and was 14 feet above normal level at 3/22 into April, uncrossable for families and goods.

To rest their foot means to settle their foot, place their foot firmly down. Genesis 8:4 “the ark rested* upon the mountains of Ararat.”

The idea is that as their feet were resting, settled in the riverbed, then the blessing would take place –the water would stand in a heap!

3. Cooperate with the Lord, 3:13

Joe took his Uncle Ira for his first plane ride. **They flew all around the village.** “Did you enjoy that Uncle?”

Uncle Ira: **“Sure, but I didn’t sit down all the way!”**

Are we settled into God’s will for our lives? **Do we trust Him enough to obey Him?**

In seminary the assignment called for Phil to read his bible 30 minutes a day, so he did. **But he never relied on what he read for his life!**

Victory is in the reliance and the doing. Jn 13:17.

3. Cooperate with the Lord, 3:13

✧ Any activities you need to start or stop?

✧ Are you tithing to the Lord?

✧ Are you an obedient witness in your neighborhood or at work.

✧ Are you obediently leading at home?

Step down on the water!

I trust God, I follow God, I live for God!

4. Commemorate unto the Lord, 4:7

Did you notice in 3:12 that they chose 12 men? **This was to put 12 stones together as a memorial to the miracle God had performed! Why?**

The miracle would not be repeated. Most aren't.

But God would always be able to help if we could but trust in Him as then. He hasn't changed.

Our faith in Him shouldn't change.

4. Commemorate unto the Lord, 4:7

Reminders. A wedding ring, anniversary reminds of your relationship and vows and the miracle of love.

- Memorial Day remind us of the sacrifice for our freedom and so we will value it and continue to pay the price to keep it.
- Ex 12:14 “Passover will be a memorial to you”
- Luke 22:19 “do this in remembrance of Me.”

4. Commemorate to the Lord, Josh 4:7

Journal; symbolic reminders (i.e., wedding ring, wedding pictures, vows), statues, pictures, paintings; bible verses; Holidays of healing, even special insights from the word to remember- keep files.

Happy Jan 10th!

Remember the Messiah!

Put down an action plan

You have not been this way before. **It's always new. Write down one insight from this text and commit to it.** Get your eyes off the past and others; **you need to look to & follow the Lord now!**

Purify yourself in surrender to Yeshua. Gird up the loins of your mind in dedication. Live for Him now and the victory will come in due course.

What is one area you can entrust to Him now. **The miracle happened at the point of faith- obedience.**

Now, today.

And so...

Look to the Lord Himself, separate yourself unto Him, and **respond to what the word instructs you** to do and remember the victory of your faith-obedience and His deliverance of you from the wilderness to the place of promise.

Faith makes the victim in the wilderness the victor in His word.