

Week Six 5/19/18

## JOSHUA

### "A Study in Strength"

#### Faith Tested:

#### Joshua 3:1-17

Crossing the Jordan River was no walk in the park. The name Jordan means "descender," the river descends about 1,000 feet from its journey from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. The Jordan River would have been at flood stage when the Israelites came upon it. It was harvest time and the "Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest," (Joshua 3:15)

This descent causes a natural current...which at flood stage moves at an incredible 10 miles per hour.

This raging river, which was about 100 yards wide, stood between the Israelites and the Promised Land.

A test of faith often begins with a willingness to obey.

**"The greater the obstacles that faith encounters, greater is the victory and assurance that come from continuing to act in trust and obedience."**

We call it a "step of faith," that is when we put obedience to our faith...

God sometimes only gives us the first step...when we take that first step He guides our next steps.

The priest came up to the River...it hadn't stopped raging...it hadn't parted...

They had to take a step of faith and first place their feet in the water...and when they took that step...the water stopped raging.

Q.

**What does a step of faith mean to you?**

**Tell us about a step of faith that you took and how God guided your steps?**

**Why does God test our faith?**

**And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. Deuteronomy 8:2)**

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; (Psalm 139:23)**

**Some steps to take when your faith is tested:**

### **1. Seek the Lord's Guidance**

When your faith is being tested, you should seek the Lord's guidance in prayer and through His Word, the Bible. Many times, when something happens, praying and learning what God is saying about our situation is the last thing we want to do. But it is the most important thing we can do.

Don't ask why...ask how...How can I grow through this trial?

### **2. PRAISE and Worship the Lord**

Sometimes in the midst of trials and tests we must say, "Hallelujah Praise You Lord, Praise Your Holy Name!

" Job said it best, "Yet though they slay me, I will still praise HIM." Praise God for WHO HE IS!

No matter what...through it all...He is still God. He still sits high...He is Sovereign!

### **3. Surround yourself with PRAYER WARRIORS**

During a time of testing we need to enlist the help of others who are praying for us.

Avoid getting on the phone and discussing your issue with friends and unbelievers.

Don't seek counsel from Dr. Phil or Oprah or reality talk shows.

This is the time for real talk; real prayers and to be around people who know the value of crying out to a sovereign God.

This is the time for acknowledging Jehovah Rapha—the God of healing and restoration and communicating with others who understand that kind of power.

**Psalm 23**

**Psalm 30**

### **Memorial Stones**

**Joshua 4:1-24**

Memorial Stones have meaning.

Joshua instructed them to take 12 men (one from each tribe) and 12 stones from where the feet of the priests had stepped in the Jordan River.

Joshua gave them the reason for this:

**That this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever." (Joshua 4:6-7)**

Memorials set history in stone!

In this case a stone was used as a memorial to history.

Notice Joshua says, "These stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

Wood rots away, flowers die, but stones last forever...they are the perfect markers for what God has done...the memory of what He has done will last forever.

Q.

**Why a memorial?**

**How do you remember what God has done?**

**Why is it important to remember?**

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