

## 3-16-25 Courage Over Fear: “When Faith Meets the Impossible”

### Week 3

**Text: Joshua 3; Galatians 5:1, 16**

**Topic(s):** Victory, Miracle, Freedom, Walking in the Spirit

**Big Idea of the Message:** It’s not that God was a God of miracles; he still is and wants to make himself known and real in our lives. God can set you free from your bondage today.

**Application Point:** Just as God desired to give the nation of Israel victory, he desires to give us victory over sin in our lives.

God has promised to give His people the land of Canaan and to guide them there. It does not mean, however, that the journey will be smooth and easy. In fact, the opposite is true - there are many obstacles and troubles.

God did not airlift them and drop them into the land “flowing with milk and honey”. God led them through a very challenging journey. But if the people are willing to trust God and obey what He says, they will surely inherit what God has promised them.

This is easier said than done, because people want God’s will to be “simple and neat, smooth and easy”, with few obstacles and no sacrifices needed.

But the truth is, life is not as easy as we expected it to be, even after knowing God. We are often discouraged when they face problems and difficulties. We complained and criticized, and for some, they gave up too soon.

We must be prepared to tackle problems WITH GOD. We must trust that God will give us the strength and wisdom to overcome them. We cannot LOSE SIGHT of God; however adverse our circumstances are.

Joshua was about to learn this first-hand. The whole nation was now camping out by the side of River Jordan. Joshua faced a big obstacle, River Jordan. It was an insurmountable problem by any human standards.

And the timing was not good. **Verse 15** says the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest, springtime. It was impossible for them to cross over UNLESS God helps them. And God did, and they crossed over, the entire nation. Everyone was safe. Without God, it will be impossible, but with God, everything is possible.

This is not just Israel’s story—it’s your story. God is calling you to step into the unknown, to trust Him when the way seems shut, and to witness His power like never before.

Today, I challenge you: Are you willing to step out in faith before you see the miracle?

**1. Faith may require that we wait.**

- **Read Joshua 3:1-2.**
- Have a heart to follow God.

- The spies had returned from Jericho and given a favorable report. Joshua orders the Israelites to move to the edge of the Jordan River and wait for further instructions
- The Israelites were to wait when waiting was difficult. Those three days of waiting at the Jordan river were days of preparation for crossing it. The issue of waiting is seen in the first phrase of verse two, **“So it was, after three days,”**
- As they waited, they no doubt became increasingly aware that crossing the Jordan River was impossible. The Jordan River that was only about 100 ft. wide most of the year, but during the spring flood stage, which it was now, became up to a mile wide.
- It was a very trying time that the people faced with tremendous difficulties, and they knew that they were at the end of their resources that God would be able to show his power.
- But it is never about what we can do, it is always about what the Lord is able to do.
- The instruction was clear – follow God! Where He leads, we follow.

**Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us Ephesians 3:20**

- Have you ever seen those flashing electronic signs on the highway which say, “Expect Delays” that is sound advice but let’s admit it, waiting on God is hard to do!
- The Jordan was at flood stage—raging waters, impossible to cross.
- But Israel wasn’t called to focus on the river; they were called to focus on God.
- It is the same with us. There will be obstacles, problems, some that are insurmountable; expect delays.
- Our faith will be built upon while we wait.

**2. Faith is unwavering trust in God, even when He moves in ways we don’t expect.**

- **Read verses 3-4.**
- Keep your eyes on God, NOT the obstacles.
- Previously God had used **“the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night”** as symbols of his leading, presence and protection.
- Now God has chosen to lead the people in a new way, by the **“Ark of the covenant.”**
- The Ark represented the presence of God. The people were told not to move until they saw God move.
- When we face times of crisis or when we need direction in life, we need to learn to be sensitive to the movement of the Lord in and around us.
- When God is at work among us and around us, we cannot help but expect to hear the call to go forward. When God is at work, we are often moved right out of our comfort zones into the path of new opportunities.
- If you are facing a raging Jordan today, it may be your river of opportunity. It may be some habit, or passion, or sin, or critical spirit or sensitiveness.
- How many times has God called then waited for us to step out in faith?
- He waits for us to be willing to get our feet wet.
- When you’re standing in an impossible situation, where are your eyes?
- On the problem or on the One who holds the solution? **Faith is fixing your gaze on God, even when the waves rise.**

- Illustration: Peter walked on water until he took his eyes off Jesus. The moment he focused on the storm, he began to sink (**Matthew 14:30**).
- What you focus on will determine whether you walk in faith or fear.

### 3. Faith means that we are willing to step out.

- **Read verses 5-8.**
- Have the courage to act.
- Before the breakthrough, there must be preparation! God will do His part, but are you ready to receive it?
- Faith was first demanded by Joshua.
- The heart to follow and the faith to believe are the attitudes of the heart.
- Joshua's faith is seen in the fact that he tells the people to prepare themselves because **"tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you,"** at a time when he did not know what those wonders would be.
- At this juncture Joshua himself probably did not know specifically how God was going to get them across, except that he believed that the Lord would make it possible for them to cross the river.
- The specifics had not yet been revealed yet Joshua believed that God would give those instructions when they were needed. But the promise that God would work miraculously was contingent on the people's willingness to consecrate or dedicate themselves.
- Joshua's faith was based not only on God's direct statements to him personally but upon previous experience.
- The Christian faith is based on a reliable and trustworthy worthy message. There is more historical proof to trust the Bible and what it says than most other historical records.
- Joshua's faith was based not only on God's direct statement to him personally but upon previous experience of his having parted the Red Sea.
- But in all fairness, we need to remember that most of the children of Israel who faced this present crisis represented a new generation.
- Even standing by the edge of the river is not enough. They got to get into the waters.
- They had not witnessed the parting of the Red Sea or were too young to remember it clearly. Most of this new generation had only heard reports of what God had done. They had not experienced it personally.
- If we expect God to do things a certain way, or our way, we will be disappointed. We must learn to trust God. He will do things the RIGHT way, the BEST way.
- We don't always see what God is doing or has already done.
- When the priests stepped into the waters, they did not see what God has already done.
- At a town called Adam, **"very far away" (v.16)**, God has already caused the waters to stop flowing.
- What God did, men did not see. God had already done something, but men did not know.
- We are called to have faith in God, trusting that He is doing what He needs to do.
- God will do His part, but we must TRUST Him.
- Sanctification means surrendering everything—letting go of doubt, sin, fear, and distractions—so we can fully receive what God has for us.
- Too often, we pray for miracles but remain stuck in old mindsets and old habits. You can't step into a new season with an old spirit!

- Unless we are willing to step out by faith and obey His Word, God will never open the way for us. -Wiersbe
- Illustration: A farmer doesn't just pray for rain, he plows the field, preparing for the harvest. What preparation do you need to make for what God is about to do in your life?

#### **4. Faith is an opportunity that can be rejected.**

- **Read verses 9-13.**
- When Joshua speaks to the people, he does not take advantage of this situation to exalt himself. His total focus was on what God had promised.
- His response no doubt shows us the main reason why God chose to use Joshua in the first place. He could trust him with this leadership role. He did not have to pump himself up or build up his leadership role in the eyes of the people, because he was convinced that God would do that.
- Someone has said, "The leader that needs to constantly tell the people that he is the leader, isn't."
- We need to remember that God's destruction of the Canaanite civilization only came after He had issued warning after warning, that destruction was on its way.
- From the Red Sea onward, with the miracles in the wilderness, for over forty years now with the Parting of the Red Sea God was warning them to repent. Telling them that to turn from their idols and their wicked ways and worship Him. And make no mistake about it the Canaanites had gotten the message.
- When the Jordan waters rolled back God was demonstrating once again his power and majesty to the pagan lost world, to men and women and children whom he loved and whom he wanted to turn to Him in faith and obedience.
- **Their lack of faith was not because of lack of evidence but it the face of overwhelming evidence and despite it.**
- God was extending one more opportunity for the inhabitants of Canaan to forsake their false gods of wood and stone and to worship the only true and living God.
- **Some of you are waiting for God to move first, but He is waiting for you to step first.**
- Could there be areas in your life that God is waiting for you to surrender before He moves?
- **Faith is not waiting for the waters to part; faith is stepping in while they are still raging.**
- Illustration: Imagine standing before an automatic door—it won't open until you step forward. God's miracles often work the same way. The door to your destiny won't open until you take that step of faith.

#### **5. Faith affords God an opportunity to demonstrate HIS power.**

- **Read verses 14-17.**
- The priests were called upon to put one foot in front of the other and step in the water.
- The moment the priests obeyed, the impossible became possible.
- **Unless we are willing to step out on faith and get our feet wet, we are not likely to make much progress in those cross-over times of life.**
- So, the priest followed in obedience, step by step, the river waters disappeared, and they were walking on dry ground.
- Earlier in the parting of the Red Sea, (**Exodus 14 & 15**) when Moses lifted his rod the water begins to part.

- But when Israel crossed the Jordan River, it was not the obedient arm of the leader that brought the miracle but the obedient feet of the people.
- Most of us are not risk takers, we are people that are comfortable with our padded chairs and predictability in serving the Lord.
- We don't like it much when we are facing those defining moments, when God asks us to cross over.
- We as humans like to hold on to the familiar, God wants us to be people who are willing to grow and expand and claim new territory.
- The most life-changing time is the moment we make the spiritual decision to open our hearts and lives to Jesus Christ; to recognize the destructiveness of our lives and to turn to him and receive his forgiveness.
- Death is the ultimate crossover moment. Death is the final cross-over moment.
- The apostle Paul called it the last great enemy. But the reality is that Christ has promised us that he has taken the sting out of death.
- The victory is his. Christ walks through even "that" Jordan with us.
- Remember as we stand to face our crossover moments whatever they may be, as we are confronted and challenged with what is frightening but also thrilling in terms of opportunity.
- The result of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River was that God was magnified; Joshua was exalted (**v. 5**), the people were energized and motivated, and the people of Canaan were terrorized (**Joshua 2:9**).
- When you step in faith, you will see God move in ways you never imagined. But you must step first.
- Illustration: Have you ever been in a situation where God showed up in a way you never expected? When we trust Him, He always proves faithful.

## Conclusion

Church, **this is our moment of faith**. This is our time to step in!

God is calling us to a **higher level of trust**, to a **deeper walk of obedience**, and to a **bolder faith that moves mountains**.

We must have:

- **A heart to follow**—fully surrendered, fully committed, fully in pursuit of His presence.
- **A faith to believe**—unshaken, unrelenting, unwavering in the face of impossibilities.
- **The courage to act**—stepping forward when fear says stop, trusting when doubt whispers "wait."

And when we do—when we step in—we will surely see His power!

Step Into Your Miracle!

Are you standing at your Jordan today?

Is there an obstacle, a fear, a challenge that seems too big, too overwhelming, too impossible?

Listen closely—God is calling you forward.

He is parting waters even when you can't see it yet.

He is moving mountains even when they seem immovable.

He is making a way where there were none before.

But the breakthrough you've been waiting for might be waiting on your first step.

Will you stand at the edge in fear, or will you step into the waters in faith?

### **Final Charge**

- **Fix your eyes on God**—not on the storm, not on the struggle, but on the One who holds it all.
- **Prepare your heart**—because God is about to do something greater than you imagined.
- **Step forward in faith**, don't wait for the miracle before you move! Faith moves first!
- **Expect to see His power**—because when you step, God moves!

Who's Ready to Step In?

Faith isn't about knowing what's next. It's about trusting the One who does.

- Joshua had to step into the Jordan before the waters parted.
- Peter had to step out of the boat before he walked on water.
- The disciples had to roll away the stone before Lazarus walked out.
- God moves when His people move in faith!

So today, I challenge you—step in!

Step into your calling.

Step into your breakthrough.

Step into the power and promises of God!

Who's ready to take that first step today?

Step in, and watch God move!

**Amen!**