

Which Way Do We Go?

Take Some Food

1/22/12

Text:

Joshua 1:1-5 NIV After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: (2) "Moses my servant is dead. **Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. (3) I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. (4) Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. (5) No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

- **You can have the same purpose, the same power, the same promise and the same presence, but you can also have different opinions on how to get there...especially if you haven't been this way before.**

Joshua 3:2-17 NIV After three days the officers went throughout the camp, (3) giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. (4) **Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.**

...But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it." (5) Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you." (6) Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them. (7) And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. (8) Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'" (9) Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. (10) This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. (11) See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. (12) Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. (13) And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." (14) So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. (15) Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, (16) the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. (17) The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 4:1-7 NIV When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, (2) "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, (3) and tell

them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." (4) So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, (5) and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, (6) to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' (7) tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

From this portion of Scripture, I believe that we can glean 4 things that we have to have in order to follow the path that God has called us to...

1. We have to possess, carry, honor and follow the Presence of God.

Joshua 3:2-5 NIV After three days the officers went throughout the camp, (3) giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it..."

...But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it." (5) Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

2. We have to make sure that we take enough supplies (food)

Joshua 1:10-11 NIV So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: (11) "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your supplies (food) ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'"

- We need to go prepared with a relevant word born of supernatural revelation
- The food that they had to take was the manna that they had been eating for the past 40 + years
- Problem...manna rotted after 1 day...this was a special manna dispensation
- The manna that they had prepared was going to be a constant, "relevant", reminder of the revelation of His provision.
- The manna was not "relevant" until it had been consumed; but it could only be consumed after its sustaining ability had been revealed.

Numbers 11:7-8 NIV The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. (8) The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a handmill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into cakes. And it tasted like something made with olive oil.

1 Peter 1:23 NIV For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

- **The ability to sustain was “revealed” only through the process of “grinding”**

Isaiah 28:28 NIV Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it.

Romans 16:25-27 NIV Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, (26) but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— (27) to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- **It was only after the manna had been consumed that it could not rot**

John 6:28-35 NIV Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" (29) Jesus answered, "**The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.**" (30) So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? (31) Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" (32) Jesus said to them, "**I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. (33) For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**" (34) "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." (35) Then Jesus declared, "**I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.**"

- **Revelation bringing relevance is a principle of Scripture**

John 1:14 NIV The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, (2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. (3) The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NIV (1) When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. (2) For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (3) I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. (4) My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, (5) so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

What's Your Story??

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 NIV (2) You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. (3) You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.