****

**Sermon: *“Glorifying God in Courageous Obedience”***

**Scripture: Joshua 3**

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, March 1, 2020

**Introduction:**

Israel’s 40-year wilderness detour served as…

* Divine **judgment** for the fearful disobedience of the older generations.
* Divine **training** in courageous obedience for the younger generations.

Each step of faith is a beautiful **opportunity** to put God’s sovereign sufficiency and faithfulness on display.

**Israel’s movement towards courageous obedience in Joshua 3 can be traced through five sections, summarized by 5 words:**

1. **Move.** Take what you do know and **GO**.  *(v. 1-4)*

***Scripture:*** *Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 3:5-6*

* The distance between the Israelites and the ark allowed them to see where to go and to see **what** God would do!
* Israel didn’t exactly know where they were going, but they were ready and willing to **move**.

1. **Prepare.** Putting off the old, makes way for the **NEW.** *(v. 5-6)*

***Scripture:*** *Gen. 35:1-3; 2 Sam. 12:20; Eph. 4:20-24; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20*

* Consecration required Israel to take off the clothes & dirt of the wilderness in preparation for their new **beginning**.
* Consecration demonstrated an **awareness** of God’s presence in their midst.

1. **Look.** New beginnings require renewed **FOCUS.** *(v. 7-9)*

***Scripture:*** *Psalm 34:3-6; John 6:9; Deuteronomy 37:6*

* Wilderness training had taught Israel to look to the LORD, but a new leader and a new chapter required **renewed** focus.

1. **Believe.** Knowing who God is, **TRUST** Him. *(v. 10-13)*

***Scripture:*** *Deuteronomy 9:23*

* Courageous **action** required Israel to know God’s Word and to believe God’s promises.

1. **Obey.** Knowing that God is faithful, **ACT** courageously.*(v. 14-17)*

*Scripture: Joshua 1:7; Psalm 27:1; James 1:25; Matthew 11:28-30*

* God’s faithfulness to His Word (His promises, instruction and commands) **kindles** faithful obedience by His people.

Questions to Consider:

* Why did God respond so forcefully to Israel’s fearful, timid disobedience in Numbers 14?
* What was the significance of the consecration for Israel’s journey of conquest?
* Why was it important for God to elevate Joshua in the eyes of the people?
* Of what promises did Joshua remind the people in vs. 10? How were these promises to be helpful at this moment?
* How does belief differ from knowledge with which you agree? What is the relationship between belief and obedience?
* How has God’s Word kindled obedience in your life?