

STRONG & COURAGEOUS: “Crossing Over” - Rev. Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes: October 5, 2025

Text: Joshua 3&4

Introduction

Ever feel like you're standing on the threshold of something new, but fear or uncertainty is holding you back? In this message we look at Joshua 3–4 and discover how God leads us into the unknown, makes a way where there is no way, and turns our obstacles into opportunities. Learn how to step out in faith, build memorials of God's faithfulness, and find courage for what's ahead!

Israel was paralyzed by fear because they saw themselves as too small. We become paralyzed by fear when we compare ourselves to the giants when we're supposed to compare the giants to our God. Deuteronomy 1:26-28, 30-33

40 years later; a new generation with renewed resolve to follow God wherever and however he led them - the circumstances hadn't changed, but their hearts had.

1) Unknown Territory is part of God's plan.

- 1 Corinthians 4:7
- *“Faith is taking the first step when you can't see the whole staircase.”* MLK Jr.
- God, in his grace, lets us grow into our faith.

When you don't know the path, pursue His presence.

- The Ark - Exodus 25:22
- When you see God move, you move.

2) God makes a way where there is no way

- Breakthrough rarely begin when you're sitting on the sidelines waiting for circumstances to change.
- Breakthroughs rarely begin until we've taken steps of faith in response to God's word.
- Miracles most often come in the middle of obedience.
- God doesn't seem to be parting the waters in front of them like He had in the past - he was 15 miles upstream working on things they couldn't see, couldn't control, couldn't change.
- Keep standing in God's promise, even when it looks unpromising, God is up to something upstream!
- Galatians 6:9

3) Your Memorial will become your motivation.

- God's past faithfulness fuels your future faith.

4) Your memorial will become someone else's inspiration.

- Others have crossed this way before.



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

In this week's message, we read how Israel took stones out from the middle of the Jordan River, where they crossed on dry ground, to build a memorial of God's miracle working faithfulness. If you had to carry one 'memorial stone' from your life that represents a moment you'll never forget, what would it be and why?

Study & Discussion:

Read Joshua 3 & 4

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) The miracle at the Jordan didn't happen until the priests stepped into the water. How does that challenge the way we usually think about faith and obedience?

3) The water piled up "a great distance away" before the people saw the results. How does that encourage you when it feels like God isn't moving yet?

4) Pastor Jer quoted Francis Chan, *"If I stop pursuing God, I am letting our relationship deteriorate. We never grow closer to GOD when we just live life; it takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness."* What do you think about this statement, and how might it inspire you?

5) Pastor Jer said, "The stones weren't just for the people who crossed over, they were for the people who were yet to come." Who's memorial stones have been an inspiration to you and who in your life might need to see or hear your story of God's faithfulness, so they can find courage for their own "Jordan River"?

6) Joshua told the Israelites to follow the Ark because they had "never been this way before." What's an area in your life right now where you feel like you're in uncharted territory?

PRAYER:

