**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Arrive at Our Destination Without a Map |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Joshua 3:3-4 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2329 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The Lord Jesus may come at any moment.
   2. Today’s message will give us from the Word of God a formula to reach our destination without a map.
   3. God was leading the children of Israel.
      1. They had come out of the land of Egypt, and they were going into their Promised Land.
      2. Not only was their Promised Land a land of opportunity, but it was also a land of mystery.
         1. They had never been that way before.
         2. They were launching out into both opportunity and mystery.
   4. The Bible says, concerning those wilderness wanderings of God’s ancient people, that all of these things happened to them for examples to us.
      1. 1 Corinthians 10:11
      2. There are incredible lessons in these Old Testament stories.
      3. Israel was going into the great unknown.
      4. Between them and the Promised Land was a river of difficulty.
         1. We are going into a land of opportunity, we are going into a land of mystery, and there are rivers of difficulty.
   5. Joshua 3:3-4
      1. 2000 cubits would be about half a mile.
      2. The key is found in verse four.
         1. It was all new.
            1. There was a brand-new day.
            2. There was a brand-new way.
            3. It was a land of mystery.
      3. They were to keep their eyes on the Ark and were not to move until the Ark moved.
         1. The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was a piece of furniture that, later on, had a central place in the Holy of Holies in the temple.
            1. Inside it were the commandments of God, Aaron’s rod that budded, and a little bit of manna.
            2. On top of it was a slab of solid gold.
            3. On each side was the figurine of a cherub with the wings spread out over a particular place called the mercy seat.
            4. The high priest would sprinkle blood upon the slab of gold to make atonement for the sins of the people.
            5. The Shekinah glory of God hovered there.
   6. The Ark of the Covenant, in the Old Testament, is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. It symbolizes:
         1. The life of God
         2. The holiness of God
         3. The righteousness of God
         4. The presence of God
         5. The atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ
      2. It pictures Jesus; Jesus is the Ark of the Covenant.
      3. The Ark is a prophecy, a type, and an illustration of Jesus in the Old Testament.
   7. Joshua 3:3-4
      1. When the Ark moved, the children of Israel were to move.
      2. Up until this time, the Ark had been in the midst of the camp.
         1. When they moved, the Ark moved.
      3. Now, there was a new day, and the children of Israel were going into a new land.
         1. They were coming out of the wilderness.
         2. No longer was the Ark going to go with them; they were going to go with the Ark.
            1. Now the Ark was out in front.

That was going to be the way of victory.

That was going to be the way they were going to be guided.

* + - 1. When they were in the wilderness, they were not living in victory.
         1. The Ark was about to lead them into victory.
  1. Are you ready to come out of the wilderness and into your promised land?
  2. Are you ready to cross over a river of difficulty and into your promised land?
     1. You are going to have to move with the Ark (Jesus).
  3. How do some Christians live in victory, and other Christians do not?
     1. All Christians have the Lord Jesus Christ.
        1. If you don’t have Jesus, then you are not a Christian.
     2. The Holy Spirit is in all Christians, but not all Christians are totally following the Lord Jesus Christ.
        1. They have Him in their midst, but He is not out in front leading.
     3. What makes the difference is when Jesus is Lord and leader, when He’s out in front, and we follow Him.
        1. The difference is not in possession; it is in position.
           1. Are you following Him?
           2. Is Jesus leading you?
  4. God has a destination (an individual plan) for every person.
     1. He makes no two snowflakes alike.
        1. He has a plan directly and distinctly for you.
  5. In today’s message, we will look at three principles for arriving at our destination without a map.

1. let jesus guide you with his presence
   1. Joshua 3:3-4
      1. They had never been there.
      2. They were going into unexplored territory.
   2. God’s will for us is not a roadmap but a relationship.
      1. The important thing for us is not to know what the future holds but to keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ.
         1. When the Ark (Jesus) moves, go after it and let Him guide you with His presence.
   3. We don’t have to know when.
      1. Joshua 3:3
         1. Don’t move until the Ark moves.
      2. With God, timing is far more important than time.
      3. We can do the right thing in the wrong time.
         1. Acts 7:22-30
            1. Moses was to deliver the children of Israel, but he couldn’t wait on God.

He got ahead of time, tried to be a missionary, and ended up being a murderer.

He killed an Egyptian.

He spent forty years in the desert going around in circles because he could not wait on God.

He moved before God moved.

* + - 1. Genesis 15-16
         1. Abraham was promised a son, but he couldn’t wait on God.

He had sexual relations with his wife’s maid, Hagar, and brought forth a son, Ishmael.

Today, the whole world is still in turmoil because Abraham could not wait on God.

The sons of Ishmael and the sons of Isaac are at war today.

* + 1. Jesus was never in a hurry, and Jesus was never late.
       1. John 17:4
       2. A lot of people were impatient with Jesus.
          1. They wanted to know why He wasn’t in a bigger rush.

After all, He spent thirty years in a carpenter’s shop.

* + - * 1. John 7:6

He was waiting on God.

* + - 1. When Lazarus was sick, Jesus waited until Lazarus was dead; then, He came and raised him.
         1. At first they were pouting; then they were praising.

Bringing Lazarus back to life was greater than had Jesus come and touched him and healed him.

* + - * 1. John 11:1-45
  1. We don’t have to know where.
     1. Joshua 3:4
     2. We don’t have to know what God has planned for us.
     3. The only thing we have to do is to keep our eyes on the Ark; the Lord Jesus.
     4. If God told us the future, then that would take the mystery and joy out of it.
        1. We could not be surprised by God’s serendipities.
        2. It could also put a lot of dread into the future.
        3. Isn’t God merciful that we don’t know the future?
  2. We don’t have to know why.
     1. “Why?” is God’s question.
        1. “How?” is our answer.
     2. We don’t have to understand.
        1. Joshua 3:5
           1. A wonder is something we don’t understand.
     3. We don’t live by explanations; we live by promises.
        1. We couldn’t understand if He told us why.
           1. Isaiah 55:8
        2. If He did tell us, then we would try to tell Him a better way.
           1. We would try to bend God’s will to fit our will.
  3. Manley Beasley: “Success is just finding out where God is moving and join Him.”
     1. Just get in on what God is doing; that is success.

1. let jesus gladden you with his promises
   1. Joshua 3:3
   2. A covenant is a sacred contract, a binding agreement, and an unfailing promise.
   3. God had made a covenant with His ancient people, and God has made a covenant with us.
   4. The promises of God:
      1. They are for all saints.
         1. Joshua 3:7
            1. God had made some promises to Moses, but they were just as good for Joshua.

The promise did not die with Moses.

* + - 1. The promises in the Bible did not die with the Bible saints.
         1. We may think that these saints were different than us, but the Bible says that Elijah was a man of like passions as we are.

James 5:17

* + - 1. Some may underline a lot of passages in the Bible, but they don’t put them into practice.
         1. They use them more as slogans than as promises.
    1. They are for all seasons.
       1. Joshua 3:7
       2. 2,000 years have not eroded the promises away.
    2. They are for all situations.
       1. Joshua 3:7
       2. Moses had failed, but Joshua did not have to fail.
       3. If there are others who do not believe the promises of God, then that is no reason that we should not.
  1. God has made a promise, a covenant, to us.
     1. God has given us a new covenant in His blood.
     2. The book of Hebrews says that it is a better covenant.
        1. Hebrews 12:2
           1. Just as they were looking to the Ark, we are to be looking to the Lord Jesus Christ.
           2. Notice that this verse doesn’t say looking “at” Jesus but looking “unto” Jesus.

When the Bible says “looking unto Jesus,” it doesn’t mean looking “at” Jesus.

It means depending upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a word that means to look away from everything else, or turning away from one thing to look at another.

This is the way we are to live with our covenant-keeping God.

* 1. The devil will try to keep us from looking to the promises of God.
     1. Some look at Satan.
        1. They are trying to find a demon under every bush, and they are all terrified.
        2. Satan will come to either terrify or entice.
        3. Don’t get devil-conscious; be Jesus-conscious.
     2. Some look at circumstances.
        1. When we look at circumstances, we are going to go down.
        2. Matthew 14:25-31
           1. Simon Peter got out of a boat to walk on water, and he was doing fine as long as he was looking at Jesus.
           2. When he looked at the mountainous waves, he took his eyes off the Lord Jesus Christ.

He put his eyes on circumstances, and he began to sink.

* + 1. Some look at other saints.
       1. The best of people will disappoint you.
       2. Psalm 118:8
          1. Don’t put your confidence in any man.
       3. 1 Corinthians 11:1
          1. Paul wasn’t saying, “Follow me;” he said, “As I follow Christ, you follow Christ.”

We are to follow the Lord Jesus.

* + - 1. Don’t look at other people.
    1. Some look at their look.
       1. The devil will try to tell us that our faith is weak.
       2. We are not to put faith in faith; we are to put faith in Jesus.
  1. Hebrews 13:5
  2. Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.
     1. Hebrews 12:2

1. let jesus guard you with his power
   1. Joshua 3:7-11
      1. The Jordan River separated the children of Israel from the land of promise.
   2. We don’t obey the Lord sometimes because we don’t trust.
      1. We don’t trust because we don’t know how great our God is.
         1. Knowledge of God equals trust.
         2. Trust equals obedience.
         3. Obedience equals blessing.
   3. He is the Lord God.
      1. Joshua 3:9
      2. Is He your Lord?
      3. If He commands us to cross Jordan, then it is His business to take Jordan out of the way.
         1. He is the one who created Jordan.
         2. He is the one who created us.
         3. Don’t parade the commands of God past the judgment bar of your understanding as to whether or not it is possible.
            1. “With God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:26

* 1. He is the living God.
     1. Joshua 3:10
     2. He is totally sufficient.
     3. He is not dead.
     4. He is not sick.
     5. Every demand upon you is a demand upon the God who lives in you.
     6. God is alive and well, and living in you if you are saved.
     7. There is enormous pressure from this world; but if you are saved, then you have the Lord Jesus on the inside.
        1. He is the living God, and He lives in us.
  2. He is the liberating God.
     1. Joshua 3:11-13
        1. As soon as the feet of the priests touched the river Jordan, something happened.
           1. The waters began to back up all the way to the city of Adam.
           2. The waters didn’t stop until the priests obeyed.
        2. The word “Jordan” means “descent.”
           1. The word “dan” means “judgment.”

It is descent into judgment.

The river Jordan is the river of death flowing down to the Dead Sea.

* + - 1. The Ark of the Covenant came into the river of death and stopped.
         1. The waters stopped all the way back to Adam, and the children of Israel came through the waters.
         2. Jesus entered the chilly waters of the river of death and is our victory.

He stopped death all the way back to Adam.

In Adam, all die; but in Christ, all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:22

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Let the Lord Jesus Christ guide you with His presence, gladden you with His promises, and guard you with His power because He is a mighty God.
      1. You don’t have to know when.
      2. You don’t have to know where.
      3. You don’t have to know why, if you know Jesus.
   2. 2 Peter 3:9
   3. The Bible says that whosoever will may come.
      1. Revelation 22:17
      2. There is no one so bad he can’t be saved, and there is no one so good that he need not be saved.
   4. Romans 10:13
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Acts 16:31
      4. John 3:16