

## **We Have Never Passed This Way Before**

### *Navigating the Changes That Real Purpose Requires*

*"Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 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. Yet there must be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for **you have not passed this way before.**" And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." 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...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.'" Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God...He will certainly drive your enemies out before you...the ark of the covenant...will go into the Jordan ahead of you...choose...one man from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the ark...set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." So...the priests carrying the ark...went ahead of them...and as soon as the priests...reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away...So the people crossed over...The priests who carried the ark...stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all the people passed by until all Israel had crossed over on dry ground."*

**Joshua 3:1-17**

## **I. Introduction**

## **II. Necessary Elements of Experiencing a Life of Purpose**

### **I. You must keep your eyes \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. Yet there must be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, so that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." **Joshua 3:3-4***

*"...and the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish." **Exodus 19:21***

**Momentum Builder** is one where momentum is developed by humbly creating a God-focused movement.

**Momentum Buster** is where momentum is drained by pridefully establishing a man-centered movement.

**Focus** - where our eyes are - determines the difference between success and failure. What we focus on influences the direction of our life.

2. You must respect the \_\_\_\_\_

*"**After three days** the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people...and Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for **tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.**" Joshua 3:2; 5*

**KEY POINT:** God wanted them to thoroughly understand that they could not do it without Him. It was utterly impossible. But God specializes in things once thought impossible.

3. You must remember to \_\_\_\_\_.

*"And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5*

**Note:** Joshua 3:5 has two sides to it. One side is **what God will do**, "for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." The other side is **what you must do to position yourself** for what God is about to do, "Sanctify yourselves...."

*"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the **flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corinthians 7:1*

*"...**let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...." Hebrews 12:1-2*

Remember, the truly dramatic "history-altering" changes don't come around often; that's why people get lulled into believing that they won't come at all. But history proves that they do come; and—just like we're experiencing now---often at unexpected times—and from totally unexpected sources!

4. You must have the courage to \_\_\_\_\_, and then \_\_\_\_\_.

*"And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap." Joshua 3:13*

*"Many of life's failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."  
---Thomas Edison*

*"I've come to believe that all my past failure and frustration were actually laying the foundation for the understandings that have created the new level of living I now enjoy" ---Anthony Robbins*

*"Most people achieved their greatest success one step beyond what looked like their greatest failure."  
---Brian Tracy*

*"My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure."  
---Abraham Lincoln*

**It takes courage to make that leap into the water!**

**Sometimes it's going to simply come down to this:**

**Choosing the promise of the future over the pain and the cowardice of your past.**