

“YOU’VE GOT TO BE WILLING TO GET YOUR FEET WET!”

TEXT: Joshua 1:2

THESIS: To show that to live for the Lord, you must be willing to trust Him for the impossible.

INTRO: A. Because of unbelief Israel had been wandering in the desert of Sinai or, appropriately, “the wilderness of Sin.” (Ex. 16:1) On that side of the Jordan River was a howling wilderness, a dry desert, harsh conditions. On the other side were houses, lands, flocks, herds, fruit, vegetables, water, oil, milk, honey...all promised to them by the Lord. *What God had for His people was across the river!*

B. They had experienced daily miracles but were still on the wrong side of the river. They needed to obey God's command and "go over this Jordan" to possess their promised possessions. They needed to remember that Caanan was called by God the PROMISED LAND, i.e., the God Who cannot fail, PROMISED to give them the land and all its possessions if they would just "go over this Jordan." But **"SOMEONE HAD TO BE WILLING TO GET THEIR FEET WET!"**

1 BARRIERS TO CLAIMING THE PROMISES:

A. Fear: 7 Mighty Nations (Josh. 3:7-10)

1. Fear is the opposite of faith, so faith is the cure for fear.
2. Naturally speaking they had every reason to fear.
3. Supernaturally speaking they had nothing to fear for God had spoken! ("Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.")

ILLUS: Our problem is the same as theirs; we see the barriers but fail to claim the promises revealed in His Word.

B. Lack of Faith: "an evil report"

Num. 13:31-33

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

1. Israel failed to believe the promises of God and experienced defeat instead of victory.

ILLUS: Is the gap necessary? Is it necessary to have a period of defeat between salvation and a life of victory? No...no more than it was necessary for the children of Israel to wander for 40 years in the wilderness. They could have gone right from the Red Sea to Kadesh-Barnea to the Jordan River and into triumphant victory. But they trusted their senses rather than God's promises.

2. The question now is will this new generation believe God or the "evil report"?

C. An Impossible Barrier: The River Itself

ILLUS: God deliberately led them to the Jordan River at flood stage. Otherwise they would have tried to dam up the river to go across. But he wanted them to trust Him in spite of the circumstances. (3:15b) If they didn't trust Him here, they would not trust Him when they crossed over and met the enemy. It wasn't the size of the Jordan River, nor the number of their enemies, it was only their lack of faith that could defeat them.

11 BELIEF CLAIMING THE PROMISES:

NOTE: "SOMEBODY HAS TO BE WILLING TO GET THEIR FEET WET!" What would YOU have done? At the Red Sea (salvation) it was "stand still!" At the Jordan River (victory Spirit fulness) it is "step in!" To live in victory and claim God's promises and experience His blessings, "YOU'VE

GOT TO BE WILLING TO GET YOUR FEET WET!" You've got to trust the Lord and "step in!" the water. Both require belief, but "stand still" required no labor. Heb.4 speaks of God's rests for His own. *Salvation rest* requires no labor. *Sabbath rest* requires no labor. The *eternal rest* requires no labor. But *Caanan rest* requires labor! After they crossed Jordan they had to fight daily to possess their possessions. "Step in!" means there is some activity, coupled with faith, on your part.

A. Step One: Discontent

1. You must be discontent with living in the wilderness. (God may take care of you there, but He has better things for you if you "cross over!")
2. You must be discontent with manna. (We need to get out of the baby stage of unbelief where God spoon feeds us to prove His faithfulness, and start eating the "old corn" across Jordan.)
 - a. First they set up memorials to God's deliverance. (4:20-22)
 - b. Then they were circumcised at Gilgal, symbolizing their ownership.
 - c. Then they celebrated the Passover speaking of their sanctification.
 - d. Then they began to possess their possessions: no more manna! (5:8-11)

B. Step Two: Obedience 3:12-17

1. Until the priests' feet touched the brink of the water, there was no miracle.
2. The people had to look at the Ark (God's presence), see the priests step in to the water, and begin walking down into the Jordan river bed and God would go before them and prepare the way for them - miraculously!

ILLUS: Earlier (1:11) Joshua ordered "Prepare ye victuals..." They might have expected him to order "Prepare ye boats..." or "Build ye bridges..." But they were to have no part in the crossing except in moving out by faith. The food was to sustain them for the first few days after the crossing when the circumcision of the men would take place and was another indication that the manna would cease.

111 BLESSINGS IN CLAIMING THE PROMISES:

A. Miracles: 3:15-17

1. The river didn't just "dry up" it "stood up." V.16
2. Their enemies hearts "melted" before them. 5:1

ILLUS: But "SOMEBODY HAD TO BE WILLING TO GET THEIR FEET WET!" Someone had to believe God and step into the waters! Someone had to put God's promise to the test. That's the only way miracles happen. The barriers to victory fell one by one; the river, the 7 nations and the evil report! What barriers stand in your way to victory, blessings and the fullness of the Spirit? "YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO GET YOUR FEET WET!" to step out on faith believing God and claiming His promises.

B. Memorials: 4:20-21

1. There were two memorials erected: the stones in the water symbolized the old man being buried, never to be seen again!
2. The stones out of the river pictured the new man and the resurrected life.

ILLUS: This generation experienced the miracles and erected the memorials for the next generation. Dr. Clarence Sexton said: "I'm inspired by the memorials I see, but I want to see some miracles." He was saying that he didn't want to rest on others' faith or victories, he wanted to experience the blessings of claiming God's promises himself. He wanted to be a part of the miracle generation, not just the memorial generation!

CONCL: Do you want to see some miracles? Answered prayer? Souls saved? "YOU'VE GOT TO BE WILLING TO GET YOUR FEET WET!" You need to read His Word, locate His promises, claim His promises to experience His miracles! Faith and obedience bring victory. Why not "go over this Jordan?"