

/I will now begin the third lecture on the book of Joshua. / The text for today comes from Joshua 3:1-17. / Almost all the Israelites have died in the wilderness. / And Joshua was raised as the leader after the death of Moses.

/Here, God is speaking to Joshua about how the people of Israel should cross the Jordan River. / In today's context, crossing the Jordan River/ refers to a sanctifying process as a holy saint/ by nailing sexual desires and greed on the cross.

/And this text is instructing us to discipline our bodies every day and enter the realm of spiritual rest. / Therefore, crossing the Jordan River is a difficult test. /But God spoke about the secret of crossing the Jordan River.

/Even today, as the saints who serve God, we also must cross the Jordan River. / There are various difficulties and trials in our way to heaven. / We can only enter into the realm of spiritual rest if we overcome these difficulties and trials.

/Then how can we cross the Jordan River? / It is written in verses 1-6. / No matter how difficult a trial may be, we can overcome it if we solve it through God's solution. / Then how can we cross the Jordan River?

/Read verses 1-2. / Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. After three days the officers went throughout the camp.

/Joshua woke up early in the morning. / And they set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. / Why did they camp before crossing over? The first reason is that they prayed and sought as well as waited for the will of God.

/We must first pray whatever happens today. / We can only overcome trials and difficulties if we prepare it through prayers. / How can we overcome this difficulty? / God has ordered Joshua to pray.

/He made Joshua seek His will. / Likewise, we must constantly seek God's will and be led by Him in whatever we do. / We must not be disheartened or discouraged/ when whatever trials come before us. / We should always pray before God / and wait for His time.

/The people of Israel can cross the Jordan River when they are led by God. / We can discern the time of God when we pray and be ready. / We must advance by being obedient to the will of God in His method.

/And if we just obey God in His time, we can cross the Jordan River. / Secondly, in verses 3-4, God is telling the people of Israel to follow the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

/Verse 3. / 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.

/God ordered the priests to carry the ark of the covenant and advance before the people of Israel. / Then the people were to follow the priests when the priests

carried the ark. / What is the ark of the covenant of the LORD? / The Word of God was in this ark.

/It also signifies the presence of God. / God would surely help us if we follow the Word of God / in the midst of difficulties. / Moreover, the presence of God is a promise that God would be with us.

/Even if we face difficult trials in our lives, / God would help us if we follow the Word of God. / If God is with someone, he or she will prosper whatever the circumstances might be/ Thus, a man is powerful if God is with him

/God was with Noah / so he was saved after he prepared the ark. / And for Joseph, in the midst of trials / he became successful because God was with him. / Even today, / in whatever we do, / it is extremely important for God to be with us.

/How do we determine success and failure today? / It is whether God is with a person or not. / We will be successful if God is with us in the midst of difficult situations / and we will surely fail if God departs from us no matter how prosperous our states may be.

/Thus, a blessed person is whom God is with in every aspect of his or her life. / If God is with a minister, he will be well-off / and if God is with a businessman, his business will prosper. / Likewise, if God is with a student, his or her academic accomplishments would be exemplary.

/Thus, we must always please God / for Him to be with us in our life. / God would be with us / if we continually obey His Word / and please Him by faith.

/Moreover, God would indeed care and lead us if we follow the Word of God. / There are two types of saints in a certain situation. / The blessed one will follow the Word of God. / And the person will strive to be led by God's guidance.

/But another type of person follow his or her wisdom and knowledge./ Though it is a great obstacle for Israelites to cross the Jordan river, / all they had to do was to follow the ark of the covenant as God has commanded. / But God has ordered them: "do not go near it."

/Verse 4. / Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it."

/God commanded them to keep a distance of about a thousand yards. / Here thousand yards were about 900 meters. / But why did God command them as such? / The reason is this: they would die if they go near it because they are all sinners before God. /So they should follow the word of God but from a distance.

/Next, here is the third secret in crossing the Jordan River. / In verse 5, it is written, "Consecrate yourselves". / Since God is holy, / we must be holy for Him to be with us.

/Holiness and purity are the nature of God. / And all the people used by God were all pure in hearts. / Hence, we must daily repent our sins in the midst of trials. / How clean is our heart before God?

/We must examine ourselves through the Word from time to time. / And we must examine ourselves through the illumination of the Holy Spirit. / We must then repent if there is a conviction from the Holy Spirit. / A cleaner person will serve God closer.

/Our prayers will be answered if we are more holy. / A believer can be inspired by the Spirit of God when he or she is clean. / Thus, those who seek sin in their heart to repent every day before God are blessed.

/We must always be reminded of our sin when we worship God. / Also, we must be reminded of our sin and repent whenever we pray. / We must be clean in the midst of our relationship with God. / And we must not possess a heart of hatred or envy in our relationships with people.

/Furthermore, we must be clean regarding our wealth. / Apostle Paul once confessed this way. / "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day." / Why do you think Apostle Paul was greatly used by God? / Of course, he possessed an exceptional faith.

/And he was humble before God. / He managed himself well. / But among those reasons, he surely lived a clean life. / He lived in a way that did not go against his conscience. / In 2 Timothy 2:20, / it is written that there are many vessels in the church.

/God would precious use those who have properly managed their lives. / Therefore, we must examine if we are clean or not. / Only those who are clean before God would be used by Him. / Sinful people cannot be with God.

/The archenemy of humanity is sin. / Our relationship with God breaks down because of sin. / Through sin, humans became miserable. / Though our sins were forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ, / sinful nature still remains in us.

/Thus, we must always live a holy life through the Word and prayer. / Even today, God has ordered Joshua to consecrate themselves.

/In verse 6, Joshua said to the priest to take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people. / The position of a leader in today's time is significant. / First, if he has received the grace of God, he must take up the duty of God. / Leaders must advance before the saints and guide them.

/The servants of God must teach the people while they act out the Word of God. / Also, priests must always advance before the people. / The church must teach the Word of God and we must learn from it to be blessed. / The ancestors of faith must all be examples for all believers.

/God has given four commands of how to cross the Jordan River to Joshua. / First, pray and seek the will of God. / Second, follow the ark of the covenant.

/Third, consecrate yourselves. / Priests, who are church leaders in today's context, must advance by holding onto the Word of God. / Also, the people must be led by their leader to cross the Jordan River.

/In verses 7-13, the account of Israelites crossing the Jordan River through the grace of God is written. / Crossing the Jordan River is an astonishing grace of God. / Although people may labor in different ways, God must pour His grace for them to cross the Jordan River.

/God must pour His grace to us for us to be well in all aspects of our life./ If He does not pour His grace, a person, no matter how capable he or she may be, is bound to fail. / But God gave His words to be with Joshua.

/Verse 7. / And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses.

/God has said to Joshua that He will exalt Joshua in the eyes of all Israel.

/He did it for Joshua to successfully lead the people of Israel. / And He promised Joshua that He would be with him just as He was with Moses.

/What does this teach us then? / God raises leaders in different times to accomplish His work. / Thus, the believers in the church must be obedient to the leadership of the servant of God. / Why is this the case?

/It is because God works by raising the servants. / Also, they must do so because God is with His servants to empower them. / He is accomplishing amazing works through His servants.

/How confident was Joshua when he heard these words of God? / "So they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses." / Who is the most powerful and courageous person today? / It is whom God is with.

/No one can defeat such a person. / Next, God ordered Joshua to drive out the entire Canaanite tribes from the land of Canaan.

/Verse 8. / 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.' "

/In today's text, God explained the method to cross the Jordan River to Joshua. / He said that the Jordan River would stop flowing if the priests with the ark of the covenant step into the river. / Of course, it is unexplainable through human wisdom. / How can that body of water dry out immediately?

/But miracles happen if we obey the words of God. / The works of God are supernatural. / They cannot be comprehended by human wisdom. / Our knowledge cannot predict them. / But the works of God are astounding.

/To whom would God show these types of miracles? / He shows it to believers who trust the Word of God and obey it. / Even today, believers who trust the Word of

God and obey it can experience these miracles. / The people of Israel can conquer the land of Canaan only if they cross the Jordan River.

/So crossing the Jordan River is like an entrance of conquering the land of Canaan. / They can possess the land only if they cross this river. / Even today, we can enter into the realm of spiritual rest if we pass these kinds of trials and tests.

/Only then can we enjoy the promises of God. / Next, in verses 9-10, God taught Joshua the way to drive out seven tribes in Canaan.

/Verse 9. / Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God.

/It is written, "listen to the words of the LORD your God." / We must go to God and find His ways by listening to His words. / So we must have ears to listen to the words of God. / Then who can listen to the words of God?

/They are whose spiritual ears are open, / with a clean, / proper heart, / and who possess a good heart that is founded on the good foundation. / Believers who can hear the words of God are truly blessed. / Then what is the promise of God if we listen and obey the words of God?

/Verse 10. / This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

/God is with / the people who faithfully listen to the words of God. / He has always been with them, and will always be with them. / Why did God abandon King Saul? / It is because King Saul rejected and abandoned the words of God.

/God spoke to King Saul, / "Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, / I have rejected you as king." / So today, God is with those who faithfully obey the words of God.

/He not only promised to be with the people of Israel, but He also added that He would drive out all seven Canaanite tribes from the land. / The people of Israel were weak. / How would they drive out the seven Canaanite tribes through their strength? / Though we are weak, / God would work for us if we obey His words.

/In verse 10, it is written, "and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites." / To the people who came to listen to the words of God / and obey them, / God has promised that He would be with them /and drive out seven tribes of Canaan.

/Who can drive out these powerful tribes? / Only God can. /He will begin to work in our life if we obey His words / and trust His power today.

/No matter how difficult trials we face today, / we can experience the power of God if we obey His words. / God is accomplishing unimaginable things in our life. / Therefore, we must listen to the words of God.

/Verse 11. / See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you.

/In verse 11, it is written, "See the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you." / The phrase "Lord of all the earth" refers to the 'sovereign ruler of the entire universe'. / God is the creator of the universe.

/That is why He is the ruler of the universe. / And He controls all things under heaven. / He controls the nature and creatures, / the rise and fall of nations, / and life and death of men.

/"See the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you," is written. / We can overcome any kinds of trials if God is with us. / The key to success in life is in the hand of God.

/Hence, the people of God must not tremble in fear because of their given environment. / We can overcome any difficulties / if God is with us.

/So we must not be disheartened by our environment.

/God is the controller of life. / If we advance by faith in God, He will open the door of blessings for us.

/Next, in verse 12, it is written to choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. / Why twelve? / It was to commemorate the astounding work of God. / And it was to remind the people that God has worked for His people.

/In verse 13, it is written, "And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD – the Lord of all the earth -- / set foot in the Jordan, / its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." / For the people of Israel, this is a great risk.

/At the Red Sea, they were to cross the sea after it has been divided into two. / But the priests had to enter the flowing river while they were carrying the ark of the covenant. / They cannot do so if they do not have faith.

/They could have been concerned about their life. /Today, many believers have failed to obey God because they acted according to their thoughts. /How would you respond if God tells you to go into the Jordan River?

/The faith of Christians / will all be revealed in this situation. /Those who do not believe in the promise and covenant of God / would run from Him.

/But the faithful will obey. / So what can we learn from this account? / When Israelites crossed over the Red Sea, they did it by faith. / But they now have to use their will to cross the Jordan River.

/We were first saved by the grace of God. / He has completely carried out salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the cross. / So we are saved if we simply believe in Jesus. / But the saved believers must strive to cross the Jordan River.

/We must put efforts to obey the Word of God. / We also must follow God's guidance through prayers. / Our salvation was entirely through His grace. /But now, we must mature spiritually in Christ through our will.

/Crossing the Jordan River today is conforming to the image of Christ. / Hence, redeemed saints of God must throw out their sins / and live lives that is conforming to the image of Jesus.

/There is grace which God has given to us freely. / And there are things that we must accomplish through our will. / Verse 13 displays amazing test of faith. / Although we are unaware of the results of going into Jordan River, / we will experience miracles of God if we obey Him.

/The works of God are above all senses of humans. / Think about it. / How is it possible for the river to be divided just because / the ark of the covenant have been carried in the river / when it overflowed?

/But God displays miracles to the obedient. / In all generations, God works through the obedient ones. / If Israelites had focused their eyes on the river, they could have disobeyed God and ran away.

/They can cross the river if they set their eyes on God's Word. / Today, we must not look at our environment but Christ. / He is the only one who can solve our problems. / He is the only one who can help us overcome difficult trials we have at present.

/Those who believe in the promise of God and set their eyes on Him have such power. / Because Israelites have obeyed the Word of God, a miracle occurred.

/In verses 14-17, /people of Israel have crossed the Jordan River like a dried land through the miracle of God. / This is impossible apart from God's miracle.

/Verse 14. / So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them.

/It is written that they have broken camp to cross the Jordan River. / And the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. / What does this teach us? / God has spoken to Joshua.

/And Joshua obeyed the words of God and passed it on to the people. / They also obeyed the words of Joshua very well. / Even today, God works by appointing church leaders.

/Believers who obey the servants of God are truly blessed by God. / The Israelites could have gone against Joshua and say, / "Joshua! / how can we cross this overflowing river?"

/They could have disobeyed. / But they obeyed the words of God to be blessed by Him. / Today, blessed people of God obey God's Word proclaimed by the pastors.

/Verse 15. / Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during the harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge,

/It was the time of harvest during that time. / So, Jordan River was overflowing more than usual. / But, priests who carried the ark of the covenant went into the water as Joshua commanded. / The feet of the priests immersed in water.

/This displays that priests have obeyed the Word even though it seemed illogical. / Sometimes, we have to take spiritual risks. / “Will the river divide into two just because priests have entered that river?” / “Would I not die if the river does not divide into two?”

/We may have doubts any time. / But we must not doubt the Word of God. / Our prayers will be answered if we have confidence when praying.

/We can only experience miracles if we obey the Word of God with confidence. /Why do so many people fail to experience the works of God? / It is because they do not believe in the Word of God / or doubt it.

/The prayers given with doubt will not be answered by God. / And in today’s text, those who doubt crossing the Jordan River will not be able to cross it. / God is searching for/ the obedient ones with such confidence.

/He works through the obedient ones without doubt. / These priests took great risks. / They immersed their feet in the water. / At that moment, how did God react?

/Verse 16. / the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

/A great miracle was displayed through the obedience of the priests. / The water from upstream stopped flowing and it piled up in a heap a great distance away. / And the people were able to cross the Jordan like a dry ground. / This is the great miracle and work of God.

/That is why we must obey God’s Word even though we cannot understand it. / Those who obey the Word of God in the midst of a danger will experience the miracles of God. / The reason why God gave Jordan River as a trial to the people of Israel / was to let them experience the living God.

/Do not be afraid of environment / even if trials and hardships are in your life. / Do not be discouraged. / We must consider such difficulties as opportunities to experience the miracles of God.

/We can experience the amazing work of God / when we obey in faith without being discouraged. / In verse 17, it is stated that the people have crossed the Jordan River.

/Verse 17. / The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

/The priests are the evidence that the river was truly divided into two. / It is written that the priests stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan Sea. / They



were first standing on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan. / They gave assurance to the people.

/Today, if we truly believe in Jesus, we will be able to witness the power of God to others. /The priests firmly stood on dry ground of the Jordan/ to assure the people. /"Dear people! / We are firmly standing on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan."

/"You can now cross this river like a dry ground." / "So do not be afraid of drowning anymore." /Then the people crossed the Jordan/ after they saw the priests. / This is the amazing grace of God.

/God has promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. / He promised that He would give them the land of Canaan. / The important fact here is that / the Word of God will always be fulfilled.

/People may forget their promises. / The heaven and earth may change, but the Word of God will stay forever. / Obedient believers will experience the miracles of God, / become the testimony of such astonishing occurrences, / and bear much fruits.

/So when we set our eyes on the promise of God / and advance in obedience through faith, / we can be the witnesses of God. / And what does the Jordan River teach us? / It teaches us that we ought to conquer through faith/ no matter how difficult our trials might seem.

/This is the end of the third lecture on the book of Joshua. / Thank you.