

Bay City Wesleyan Church
June 19, 2016

Sunday Morning 06-19-2106

God's promises become reality as the Holy Spirit leads his people and they follow in obedient faith.
<http://bible.com/events/53162>

Meet This Summer's Challenges with Courage

Life is full of new challenges. What new challenge are you facing right now? Yesterday's portion of courage is gone. Where will you find the courage to face your new challenge?

Join us this summer as we uncover new sources of courage in the adventures of Joshua. He faced the challenge of turning wanderers into warriors, sojourners into soldiers, and travelers into trailblazers. Jesus helped him and he will help you. Starts today.

I enjoy thinking about and creating new ideas or ways of doing things.

My only problem is that I'm reluctant to suggest my ideas to others for fear they won't actually work.

We often want to know how something will turn out before we start.

We hesitate to go "all in" unless we know it's a sure thing.

How can we break free from these chains of fear and hesitation? What can set us free to follow Jesus through the unknowns of life?

Joshua 3:1-17 NLT

Early the next morning Joshua and all the Israelites left Acacia Grove and arrived at the banks of the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing. Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, giving these instructions to the people: "When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, move out from your positions and follow them. Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you. Stay about half a mile behind them, keeping a clear distance between you and the Ark. Make sure you don't come any closer." Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you." In the morning Joshua said to the priests, "Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river." And so they started out and went ahead of the people. The Lord told Joshua, "Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses. Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: 'When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there.'" So Joshua told the Israelites, "Come and listen to what the Lord your God says. Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites ahead of you. Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River! Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. The priests will carry the Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall." So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water

above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho. Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Lord's Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

Jesus goes all out for those who are all in for him.

As you face the unknowns of life following Jesus, you need to consecrate yourself to him. We tend to live in agreement with the poet who penned the words, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul". However, when we function as the captains of our souls, we can only accomplish what our weaknesses can do. When we are all in for Jesus, he goes all out for us. Consecrated hearts allow Him to show His power so we can do whatever He asks us to do.

FIRST STEPS:

Give everything you know about yourself to Jesus

As new challenges arise and you learn more about yourself, give everything to him again

The Lord has amazing things he wants to do in and through us.

Jesus wants us to face life with a sense of anticipation, expecting his grace to be more than enough.

Jesus wants others to see hope in our eyes as we navigate conditions we've never seen.

Jesus wants us to face life with faith in him. He wants us to experience the reality of his love, wisdom, and power.

But if we ever live with confidence in Jesus, then we'll need to consecrate our lives to him.

Jesus goes all out for those who are all in for him.

If you will give yourself to Jesus, then please pray with me now.

Lord Jesus Christ, take all of my life, my freedom, my memory, my understanding, and my will. All that I have and cherish you have given me. I surrender it all to be guided by your will. I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all I am and have all I will ever be and ever have to your pleasure and disposal.

Glorious and blessed Heavenly Father, you are mine and I am yours. Your grace and your love, Your presence and Your Holy Spirit are more than enough for me. Give me these, King Jesus, and I will ask for nothing more.

Amen