



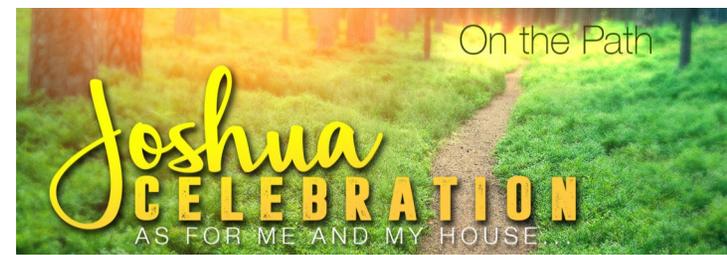
**Text:** Joshua 3: 1-7, 14-17

## The Plain Truth

The way to the Promised Land is \_\_\_\_\_  
God's Word and \_\_\_\_\_ his Way.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ God
  - a) Obedience inspires obedience.
  - b) Joshua's epitaph was, "Joshua, servant of the Lord."
  
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ His Way
  - a) Faithfulness looks \_\_\_\_\_ to non-believers.
  - b) Leaders take a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ so others can cross over.

**August 27 & 28, 2016**



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# JOSHUA CELEBRATION

Personal Study • Week of August 28

After forty years in the wilderness God's people are ready to enter the Promised Land. There's just one thing in the way—a flooding Jordan River. But Joshua trusts the Lord and leads the people of Israel with great courage. In fact, his obedience inspires the leaders to trust and obey which in turn inspires the people to trust and obey. As a result, the entire nation puts their trust in God, and God shows Himself mighty and trustworthy. The Lord makes a way for His people to cross over the Jordan River on dry ground.

Read Joshua 3:1-8, 14-17

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" (v7). Moses had been a tremendous leader, and remained humble and faithful to God throughout 40-years of wilderness trials. Even before Moses died (Deuteronomy 34:5), the Lord had told Moses that Joshua would be the one to lead the people into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 31:1-3). Joshua was faithful. And in spite of the obstacle ahead, Joshua chose to trust the living God.

1. Notice how the Lord works a miracle (for a whole nation!) as a result of one man's obedience. What does this tell you about the connection between our obedience to God's voice and God's miracles?

What obstacles are you facing today—roadblocks that are impassible if God doesn't show up?

Obstacles can be a blessing if we choose to look up and trust in God's power instead of wallowing in worry. But trusting the Lord goes against the grain of culture. When we put our faith in God alone, He may tell us to do something that looks crazy to the world – like having the priests step into the muddy floodwaters of the Jordan while carrying the Ark of the Covenant. Sometimes faithfulness looks foolish.

2. What happened as soon as the feet of the priests touched the water (vv 15-16)? What is especially significant (and special) to you in v17?

When has trusting the Lord for something caused you to look foolish to bystanders? How did the Lord come through for you?

Often it's not until we are desperate enough – with no other place to turn, no other options – that we finally choose to trust God 100%. If we look foolish, we look foolish. But had Joshua and the priests not trusted God, not only would Israel been stuck in the wilderness they would not have experienced the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River. Fully devoted followers of Christ don't give up when the road is impassible, but like Joshua we learn to face every obstacle with obedience.

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