

Guidance for the Unknown way.

“.....for you have not passed *this* way before.” Joshua 3:4

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- “Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. ² So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; ³ and they commanded the people, saying, “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. ⁴ Yet there shall 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.” Joshua 3:1-4

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- Israel had been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years
- Now they have come to a new place; they are about to enter the promised land
- But, the river Jordan is between them and the promised land
- And river Jordan is *in flood*
- They have been waiting for this moment and yet ...
- “you have not passed this way before”

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- So, how do we face a *new way; a new challenge; a new year?*
- 1. We face it with trust (faith) in the goodness of our God
 - Joshua did
 - Joshua's faith in God: “for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.” Joshua 1:11
 - Joshua's faith in God: “And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”

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- God is fully worthy of our total trust
- He has proved it in the pages of the Bible and in our experiences
- *Distrusting God dishonors Him*
- “The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.’ (G. Mueller)

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- 2. Remember, the Lord is mindful of us
- God, through Joshua, prepares the people to pass through this new way- “that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed *this* way before.”
 - “The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us.” Ps. 115:12
 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.” 1 Cor. 10:13
 - It is God who takes the initiative; we just trust, obey and follow
 - And everything will be alright!

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- 3. Keep your eyes on the Ark of Covenant (Jesus)
 - “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. ⁴ Yet there shall 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,..” (verse 4)
 - Look for the ark. (*when you see ..*)
 - Follow the ark. (*then you shall set out..*)
 - Make provision to keep the ark in sight. (*there shall be a space...*)

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- “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, 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, ² looking unto **Jesus**, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb. 12:1-2

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- “Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,
For in You do I trust; Cause me to **know the way** in which
I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.” Ps. 143:8
- Oh God, You are my God
And I will ever praise you
And I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days (Rich Mullins)