

He Got Us OUT to Get Us IN

A Study in Joshua

Chapter 3: FACING THE IMPOSSIBLE

1. What is it in your life that seems impossible that keeps you from experiencing the fullness of the life that God wants us to live?
2. What's the difference between *possibility thinking* and *impossibility living*?
 - a. Consider Abraham as he raises the knife to sacrifice his son Isaac (Heb. 11:17-19).
 - b. Consider Mary response after the angel tells her that she's going to have a baby without ever having been with a man (Luke 1:37-38).
 - c. Consider Paul as he hears the news that God's grace is sufficient and that he's not going to be healed from his "thorn in the flesh" (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
 - d. Consider Jesus as he faces the reality that He would be separated from His Father because He's going to take our sin on Himself (Matt. 26:39).
3. "*Then Joshua rose early in the morning...*" vs. 1a. This was a pattern for Joshua (6:12; 7:16; 8:10). Why? What do you think he was doing? (Joshua 1:8; Ex. 34:2; Mark 1:35)
4. If we aren't in the Word regularly it's probably for some of the following reasons:
 - a. We don't have time because of a 'too busy' schedule
 - b. We don't see how it applies to us
 - c. We don't think it will help in our current (good or bad) circumstances
 - d. We don't consider our circumstances 'impossible' so there's no real need

Which of the above do you most identify with and why?

5. Joshua & Israel ***chose to follow God's lead*** while facing the 'impossible.' From question #1 how can you ***choose to follow God's lead*** in your 'impossible' situation?
6. In verses 4-6 Israel was challenged to ***maintain a holy respect for God*** by keeping their distance from the ark of God and by "consecrating" themselves. How does this apply to us today if at all?
7. In verses 7-11 the nation is challenged to ***listen to God's Word*** and then in verses 12-17 to ***obey God's Word***. Why is it so difficult to listen and obey God in the face of what appears to be impossible circumstances?
8. When we "come to the edge" of impossible circumstances we must trust God to go further. How does listening to God's Word help us trust God (Rom. 10:17) to obey Him?

9. The key for facing the humanly impossible task of 1 million plus people crossing the Jordan while it was at flood stage was centered on the Ark of the Covenant which is mentioned 10 times in the 17 verses of Joshua 3. What does the Ark represent for Israel?
10. What three things were inside the Ark and what do they represent for us today?
11. What are the similarities of Israel crossing the Red Sea while leaving Egypt and crossing the Jordan to get into the land of promise? What are the differences? What's the application for us?
12. Consider Joshua's instructions in vs. 4 "...that you may know **the way** by which you shall go..." and Thomas' questioning Jesus in John 14:5-6 "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know **the way**?" Jesus said to him, 'I am **the way**...' Very practically, how is Jesus **the way** when facing humanly impossible circumstances? (Philippians 4:13; Colossians 2:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 1 John 4:4 then John 1:1; 6:66-68; 8:31-32; Ephesians 6:12, 17; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:9-11)
13. In Matthew 14:23-33 Jesus asked Peter to live life in the realm of the impossible. What was Peter's only responsibility to experience life beyond his imagination?
- Are you still on the bank? Are you still in the boat?
 - What are some areas in your life where Jesus is asking you to "get out of the boat and come walk with Me on the water"?
 - What are some specific faith steps you can take to step out and walk on the water with the Lord?
14. According to Joshua 3:17 what promise did God keep? How does it apply to us?