

Monday, April 11, 2022

From Darren:

Joshua 3:1-4:24 - Walls or not, if your enemy is able to stop the flow of a river you might want to consider surrendering

Ps 80:1-19 - "Turn us again to yourself, O LORD God of Heaven's Armies. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved." - God did one better...He sent Jesus

Pro 12:27-28 - "The way of the godly leads to life" - Our answer when someone asks, "Why are you a Christian?"

Luke 14:7-35 - "So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own." - Question for myself: "Have I surrendered everything to the Lord?"

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Joshua 3:1-4:24

3 1 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.

2 Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp,

3 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.

4 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."

5 Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you."

6 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.

7 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.

8 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."

9 So Joshua told the Israelites, "Come and listen to what the LORD your God says.

10 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.

11 Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River!

12 Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe.

13 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."

14 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.

15 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,

16 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.

17 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.

4 1 When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,

2 "Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe.

3 Tell them, 'Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.'"

4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel.

5 He told them, "Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

6 We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'

7 Then you can tell them, 'They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the LORD 's Covenant went across.' These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever."

8 So the men did as Joshua had commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River, one for each tribe, just as the LORD had told Joshua. They carried them to the place where they camped for the night and constructed the memorial there.

9 Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.

10 The priests who were carrying the Ark stood in the middle of the river until all of the LORD 's commands that Moses had given to Joshua were carried out. Meanwhile, the people hurried across the riverbed.

11 And when everyone was safely on the other side, the priests crossed over with the Ark of the LORD as the people watched.

12 The armed warriors from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh led the Israelites across the Jordan, just as Moses had directed.

13 These armed men—about 40,000 strong—were ready for battle, and the LORD was with them as they crossed over to the plains of Jericho.

14 That day the LORD made Joshua a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites, and for the rest of his life they revered him as much as they had revered Moses.

15 The LORD had said to Joshua,

16 "Command the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant to come up out of the riverbed."

17 So Joshua gave the command.

18 As soon as the priests carrying the Ark of the LORD 's Covenant came up out of the riverbed and their feet were on high ground, the water of the Jordan returned and overflowed its banks as before.

19 The people crossed the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month. Then they camped at Gilgal, just east of Jericho.

20 It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River.

21 Then Joshua said to the Israelites, "In the future your children will ask, 'What do these stones mean?'

22 Then you can tell them, 'This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

23 For the LORD your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over.

24 He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the LORD 's hand is powerful, and so you might fear the LORD your God forever."

Psalm 80:1-19

80 1 Please listen, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph's descendants like a flock.

O God, enthroned above the cherubim, display your radiant glory

2 to Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Show us your mighty power. Come to rescue us!

3 Turn us again to yourself, O God. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.

4 O LORD God of Heaven's Armies, how long will you be angry with our prayers?

5 You have fed us with sorrow and made us drink tears by the bucketful.

6 You have made us the scorn of neighboring nations. Our enemies treat us as a joke.

7 Turn us again to yourself, O God of Heaven's Armies. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.

8 You brought us from Egypt like a grapevine; you drove away the pagan nations and transplanted us into your land.

9 You cleared the ground for us, and we took root and filled the land.

10 Our shade covered the mountains; our branches covered the mighty cedars.

11 We spread our branches west to the Mediterranean Sea; our shoots spread east to the Euphrates River.

12 But now, why have you broken down our walls so that all who pass by may steal our fruit?

13 The wild boar from the forest devours it, and the wild animals feed on it.

14 Come back, we beg you, O God of Heaven's Armies. Look down from heaven and see our plight. Take care of this grapevine

15 that you yourself have planted, this son you have raised for yourself.

16 For we are chopped up and burned by our enemies. May they perish at the sight of your frown.

17 Strengthen the man you love, the son of your choice.

18 Then we will never abandon you again. Revive us so we can call on your name once more.

19 Turn us again to yourself, O LORD God of Heaven's Armies. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.

Proverbs 12:27-28

12 27 Lazy people don't even cook the game they catch, but the diligent make use of everything they find.

28 The way of the godly leads to life; that path does not lead to death.

Luke 14:7-35

14 7 When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice:

8 “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited?

9 The host will come and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!

10 “Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, ‘Friend, we have a better place for you!’ Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests.

11 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward.

13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.”

15 Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

16 Jesus replied with this story: “A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations.

17 When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’

18 But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’

19 Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’

20 Another said, ‘I now have a wife, so I can’t come.’

21 “The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’

22 After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’

23 So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.

24 For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.”

25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them,

26 “If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

28 “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you.

30 They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

31 “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?

32 And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away.

33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

34 "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again?"

35 Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!"