

02.25.2024 sermon by Pastor David K Park

Scripture : Joshua 3:1-6

Title : Have Resurrection Faith (2)

"Sanctify yourselves" [NRSV]

Canaan was the goal of the Israelites in the Exodus, a place they could reach in just a week if they walked hard, but they were in no hurry. They sat and rested when God's pillar of cloud covered them, and God's pillar of fire kept them warm on cold nights. They moved only when the pillar of fire and cloud moved.

This living history is the story of the Israelites' exodus to freedom. It's about the land God promised them, a land they have a goal for but have yet to reach.

This is an extraordinary thing that God did for them. To whom and under what conditions does God do extraordinary things?

When Israel traveled to Canaan, they had many enemies. But the scripture doesn't tell them to keep an eye on their enemies. Instead, it tells them to be holy before God. There is only God's word that it is God's job to destroy enemies. This is God's priority.

After the death of Moses, the leader of Israel, God personally called Joshua to be their leader. Joshua's mission was to be a leader who was told, "Cross over this Jordan into the land I am giving to them, the children of Israel."

We must be holy because God is holy.

Standing upright before God is not just about being good. It means having a repentant heart, even if you've sinned.

Today is the second Sunday of Lent. How has the past week been different from the weeks before?

The truth is, even at the beginning of a new year, even at the beginning of a new day that seems to turn the world upside down, the world is still. It is just another day of God's time after yesterday. We divide them up and call them New Year's Day, Independence Day, and so on.

Canaan was the promised land, but it was not empty. If Canaan had been empty, or if the waters of the Jordan had been parted beforehand, even the unbelievers would have entered.

But God has set before us a difficulty to let in those who have faith.

Is there a difficulty before you? Is there a steep mountain in your way?

There is a way out of the trials and difficulties that God has placed before you.

No matter what your difficulty, if the face of God shines upon you, the problem is solved. You just need to prepare yourself in holiness. This is the resurrection faith of today.

Of the twelve spies sent by Moses, only two were positive believers who had faith.

Trust in the God of Ebenezer, the God of Immanuel, who is for you.

Ebenezer, 'Stone of Help'

Israel fought the Philistines and failed. After repenting and getting right with God, they fought again and won. Samuel builds a monument to praise God, saying, "God has helped us this far.

Text, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass on in front of the people." [Joshua 3:6 NRSV] (Keep the LORD always in the forefront)

The word for "sanctify" in the text is 'kodesh' ('sacredness/holiness' in Hebrew). Traditionally, there were actions that corresponded to this: washing clothes, changing clothes, or staying away from women are biblical "sanctifying" actions. However, in the context of today's text, there was not a lot of time, so the idea is to prepare for heart sanctification, or spiritual sanctification.

When driving a car, it's safer to have a guide who knows the way, even if it's a new road.

Modern cars have GPS systems that show you a map of your destination. You can even hear a voice.

Do you have God's GPS as you travel toward your life's destination? GPS stands for Global Positioning System. But what about the God Positioning System?

Man's calculations are not God's calculations.

Following God's Word is the secret to victory.

The success or failure of your life depends on God.

* How can we put God first?

- 1) By forsaking myself
- 2) Move only when God tells you to move

May your life be passively led by God.

The end of 02.25.2024 sermon