

Ye Have Not Passed This Way Before

TEXT: Joshua 3:2-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. ISRAEL PREPARES TO CROSS JORDAN.
- B. GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO FOLLOW THE ARK.
- C. “FOR YOU HAVE NOT PASSED THIS WAY BEFORE.”
 - 1. Renewal of our commitment – a new start.
 - 2. Untrodden territory. A need for determination and work.

I. WE STAND ON THE BANKS OF THE JORDAN WITH ISRAEL.

- A. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
 - 1. Could continue on at the same slow pace.
 - 2. Could wake up to make the best use of this new day!
- B. TIME IS AN UNCERTAIN COMMODITY.
 - 1. We have little of it (**Job 14:1-2; Eph. 5:15-16; Jas. 4:13-14**).
 - 2. In contrast to God (**2 Pet. 3:8**).
 - 3. Number our days (**Psa. 90:10-12**).
 - 4. How to make each day eternally important (**James 4:13-17**).

II. EXHORTATIONS OF CROSSING.

LET US ...

- A. COUNT OUR BLESSINGS.
 - 1. **Psalm 65:11; James 1:17**.
 - 2. And be thankful (**Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:17**).
- B. COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE DUTIES WE HAVE IN THE CHURCH.
 - 1. To the unity (**Eph. 4:1-16**).
 - 2. To the work (**Rom. 12:3-8**).
- C. LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT (**Heb. 12:1**).
 - 1. Sin (**1 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 2:1**).
 - 2. Worldliness (**Rom. 12:1-2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17**).
 - 3. Worldly entanglements (**2 Tim. 2:3-4**).
- D. ENTER THIS TIME WITH RESOLVE!
 - 1. Let us resolve to grow (**2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Pet. 2:1-2**).
 - 2. Let us resolve to read our Bibles (**2 Tim. 2:15**).
 - 3. Let us resolve to pray (**1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1**).
 - 4. Let us resolve to meet with God’s people (**Heb. 10:24-25**).
 - 5. Let us resolve to resist the devil (**James 4:7-8**).
 - 6. Let us resolve to go forward (**Phil. 3:12-16**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. YOU MIGHT SAY, “I HAVE ALREADY BEEN DOWN THAT ROAD.”
- B. NOT THIS ONE – YOU HAVEN’T BEEN DOWN 2012.
- C. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT? (**Josh. 24:15**).