

Back to the Future
“The Christian Life Portrayed in the History of Israel”
Part 3 - The Land of Promise Joshua 3-5 (p 148)

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Frank Mascaro

Review: The geographical experiences of Israel illustrate the spiritual experiences of the Christian life:

- *Egypt* typifies the bondage and death of the world and deliverance of the Christian by God's Lamb
- The *wilderness* depicts Christians who live in unbelief and disobedience and refuse to grow and mature in their faith
- *Canaan* pictures the Christian who grows in faith and begins to possess God's promises and riches in Christ

Learning to live as a *follower of Christ* means that I:

- learn to follow the Lord - crossing the Jordan - crossing the Jordan (Josh 3; Luke 5:27; 14:27; Gal 2:20-21)
- count myself dead to sin but alive in Christ - the stones of testimony (Josh 4:1-24; Rom 6:11-14; Col 3:1-3)
- put off the works of the flesh and put on Christ - circumcision at Gilgal (Josh 5:1-9; Eph 4:20-24; Col 2:11-15)

- remember to live out the life Christ has purchased and made possible - celebrating the Passover (Josh 5:10; Luke 22:14-20; 2 Cor 5:14-15)
- learn to feed myself spiritually on God's Word - the cessation of the manna (Josh 5:10-12; Matt 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; Col 3:16)

Taking it home....

Which of the three stages discussed at the beginning of this sermon best describe your own spiritual life? Are you *still in Egypt* without Christ? Have you been *delivered from Egypt* and are just glad you are saved? Are you *in the wilderness* refusing to hear and obey God and find yourself wandering between wanting to go on with Jesus, yet wanting the things of this world that keep you from Him? Or are you ready to “*crossover*” and begin to possess the promises of God and the riches of Christ? Explain.

Read Joshua chapters 3-5 again. ...once again, assess your own spiritual life, your faith, in relation to the five experiences of faith that we saw in Israel as they came to their own “crossover” decision. When will you determine to take that step to crossover from the wilderness to enter the battle where Christ wants to lead you? What keeps you from that determination?
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