



A NEW LAND – DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO!

READING – Joshua 1:1-6 and Joshua 3:1-6

After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the North from the Euphrates in the East to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 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. Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, 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. Since you have never travelled 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. "Then Joshua told the people, **"Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you."** In the morning Joshua said to the priests, "Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river." So they started out and went ahead of the people.

Main Message

God moves us on from time to time, and we should not be afraid to go.
Journeys can be physical (moving house), relational (job change, marriage, parenting, church).
They can be mental or spiritual (changing our views, coming to faith)
In each case, we should prepare our departure, our journey and our arrival.
We can be bold and courageous, knowing God is with us during each stage

Key Verse

John 3:5 Then Joshua told the people,
"Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you."

Questions:

Conversation Starter

What is the worst journey (physical, situational or mental) that you have had to undertake?
Which part of it was most difficult? Before you started? While on the way? Or on arrival?

What might God be saying to me about this theme/situation?

God with us before we start, when we are on the journey and when we have arrived, helps us.

What have I learnt that I want to hold on to?

Every journey begins with a first step?
Preparation/purification is necessary?
Arrival is just the beginning?

How am I going to put it into practice?

Seeking God's guidance when contemplating a journey of whatever type through prayer
Sharing our concerns with those who have experience of similar journeys.
"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."