



The Report

ISAIAH 53:1

WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

November, 2009

What Choice Will You Make?

By: Michelle Hoff

Joshua is the book of the Bible that describes how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by giving the Israelites the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. This book describes how Joshua lead the people across the Jordan River and how God delivered the Canaanites, the people currently living there, into the hands of His people. The Israelites were told in Joshua 1:2-3 to "cross the Jordan...to the land which I give them...every place the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you..." What a wonderful promise God gave His people! Joshua instructed the people, in Joshua 1:10-11, to be prepared with provisions and in three days they would cross the Jordan River. If you were one of the Israelites in the crowd that heard this command, what would you have done? Let us look at the choices you could possibly make.

The first choice is to get ready to cross the Jordan River. The second choice is to wait awhile, take your time, and finally go at the very end of the pack, so to speak, and hang out in the back away from everyone else. The third choice is not to cross the Jordan at all, to watch everyone else go, and remain where you are on the edge of the Promised Land. Which choice will you make? What happens with each choice?

In order to understand the choice you as an Israelite must make, it is important to understand the Jordan River. Most of the year the river is 80-100 feet wide and would not be difficult to cross; but in the spring flooding time it can be very turbulent and as long as a mile wide, overflowing the banks. At that time, to cross with Joshua, the river was probably more like 80-100 feet wide and easier to cross, since there was no mention of difficulty crossing it in P.O. Box 94, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785 (727) 213-1138 BishopLowery@SpiritualLifeConcepts.org

this chapter. The wisest choice would seem to be to go with all the people and have their support, rather than wait for a time when the river has flooded, before trying to cross it.

In our relationship with God, we have the same choices before us that the Israelites standing on the riverbank had available. We can use the Jordan River to represent life and how we respond to it. One riverbank, the one we stand on, is our own side where we do as we please and live life "our own way". The riverbank on the other side of the Jordan is where God's Promised Land is, where we let Him guide us and follow His will, On that riverbank, letting Him help us through life with His love and grace. If we stay close to God by reading the Bible, praying, becoming part of a good church, and having fellowship with other Christians, it then becomes easier to cross the Jordan River to the Promised Land. The support of fellow Christians help us do this, and fellowship with God helps us make the right choice sooner when faced with life's tough times. Waiting too long to cross, staying away from church, dabbling in Bible reading and prayer makes facing life's problems more difficult without the close fellowship Christ gives us. It is like waiting for the mile wide flood before trying to cross the Jordan—it becomes much more difficult. The last choice is to stay on the riverbank and not cross to the other side, keep control of our lives, and do things our own way. This choice leaves us without the close fellowship we feel when letting Christ be Lord of our lives, it makes facing life's tough times more difficult, and it becomes easier to make decisions that cause us to disobey God.

What will your choice be, regarding your own relationship with Christ? Will you cross the Jordan when it is easy, or wait until it is flooding before you do? Or will you stand on the riverbank, not crossing at all? Jesus has His hand outstretched to you always and all you have to do is take it. He will help you across the Jordan River, no matter where you are. That is His promise to us; He will never leave us nor forsake us. Just remember, don't wait to cross the Jordan until you are drowning before you reach the other side!

*To download the rest of the newsletter, in .pdf format, please go to the S.L.C. website: www.SpiritualLifeConcepts.org --You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader in order to view the newsletter. Go to www.adobe.com to download Adobe Acrobat Reader for **free**. A hyperlink to the newsletter can be found at the bottom, left-hand side of the homepage.*



A Reflection: Jesus Heals a Paralytic

By: Rev. Brandi Meadows

As most of you know, Jonathan and I are expecting our first children, Natalie and Zoe, here in the next week or so. I was put on bed rest for medical reasons and had some time to spend reflecting with the Holy Spirit and this is where He brought me.

Matthew 9:1-8

1. Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

3. At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

4. Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5. Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 6. But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." 7. And the man got up and went home. 8. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.—*NIV translation*

This is the portion of scripture that really spoke to me. I was praying through this, and I felt the Holy Spirit speak about several points to me. The first, is that God can work through us in many ways when we least expect it. The scripture says that Jesus stepped off the boat and came into His own town. I do not think Jesus stepped off of the boat knowing that He would be healing that day. After all, it was on the Sabbath! This means that Jesus always had His eyes open for opportunities. It did not matter

where or when, but Jesus used every opportunity to serve God and let God work through Him.

God really spoke to me that we should always have our eyes open for opportunities to serve Him. It does not matter where and it should not matter if it inconveniences us! The other point I pondered, where was Jesus going when he reached His own town. Where was He going? What was He about to do? I thought this over and I realized that it did not matter! When Jesus saw the opportunity to minister, His day was interrupted, because all His days belonged to the Master.

The last point God whispered to me was about the ability to believe in miracles again. We so often go through this world reading about the great things that God has done and the great things that have happened to patriarchs of the past, but we forget that God is still moving and He will also do it again for us today! I remember when I was a child, I was in church and I would see miracle after miracle happen. Where is this in the church today? I often think that if we could just have faith like those saints of the past, we would see miracles happen.

After thinking this, I then thought, miracles are happening and I can see them! Every day, in the little things, God is constantly revealing Himself. He is constantly reminding me that He is God, whether it is making me swerve not to hit a car or waking me up every morning!



Prayer Requests

Pray For:

- God to continue to lift up and bless all of the ministries that are a part of Spiritual Life Concepts.—Bishop's Council
- The leaders of Spiritual Life Concepts and God's continued guidance, wisdom, provision, protection, blessings, etc...
- Ask God to give divine guidance and direction as our Bishops continue to plan SLC website changes.
- A move of God to bring people back to the basics.
- Dr. Richard and Pastor Vunita Iske , of Rushing Wind Worship Center, as they assess ministry needs in Pinellas County, FL.
- Brandi and Jonathan as they await the arrival of twin girls.
- Danie's headaches to be treated and healed. Also for motivation, creativity, and success in her college classes!
- Mitch & Cheryl, they are struggling to find a home and work.
- Jackson and his mother, Sharon, as they try to find common ground on things.
- Edith's grandson, Billy, is struggling to find work.
- Jimmy and J.R., both are battling cancer.
- Mary's family, as they are going through trials in their lives.
- Mel's family situation, that peace and healing can be restored to the household.
- Mary's family, as they are going through trials in their lives.

Praise Reports

Thank God For:

- Velma is praising God for delivering her husband from a medical condition. He is back home from the hospital!!
- The complete healing of Pastor Bobbi's leg from an infection.
- Helping Danie in her classes.
- The successful selling and closing of Archbishop Lowery's house.
- Protecting Brandi's twin girls!
- God's protection, guidance, wisdom, provision, blessings, etc...to all His children and the Church!





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