# Joshua 3:1-5:12 "Crossing the Jordan" (1/21/2024)

**OPENING QUESTION:**

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

**READ Joshua 3:1-5:12**

1. After exiting Egypt some 40 years prior, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. "The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light" (Exodus 13:21). As the new generation were about to cross over to the promised land, how did God show them the way they should go (Joshua 3:1-4)? How does God lead His people today in the ways they should go?

2. Give the meaning of "consecrate". Why do you think Joshua told the people to "consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (3:5)?
How can believers consecrate themselves to the Lord?

3. In Joshua 3:17, the Israelites are called a nation for the first time. Why is this significant according to Genesis 12:2 and Exodus 19:3-6?

4. What were God's instructions (4:1-7) and two purposes (4:15-24) concerning the twelve stones?  Share any traditions or reminders that you utilize to recall God's faithfulness. Why is it important to remember what God has done?

5. Upon hearing "that the Lord had dried up the waters at the Jordon for the people of Israel" the hearts of the Amorites and Canaanite kings melted (5:1). What do you think is the meaning of the expression "hearts melted"?  Why would God have the sons of Israel be circumcised and why at this particular time (Genesis 17:10 and Joshua 5:1-2)?

6. "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold I am about to rain bread from heaven for you…' The people of Israel ate the manna forty years till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan." (Exodus 16:4, 35).

The manna ceased when the Israelites crossed into Canaan (Joshua 5:11-12). Did that mean the LORD had quit providing for them? Explain. How do you see His provision for you each day?