

## **YOU HAVE NOT PASSED THIS WAY BEFORE**

1. Text: Joshua 3:2-6
2. Here is a great historic moment in Bible history. Israel is finally crossing Jordan to enter the promised land.
3. Notice verse four's suggestive expression: "You have not passed this way before." It would be a new experience. We have many of those. What resources does Joshua provide for us?

### **I. The Reality**

1. We often face new and different challenges.
2. Examples: Graduation; marriage; parenting; "empty nesting"; new converts; education; talent use or development; passages or stages of life; crises; moves; problems; aging; health issues; death.

### **II. The Resources (From The Text In Joshua)**

1. The Following. Verse 3: When the ark of the covenant moves, you follow. Exodus 25:10-22 explains the ark. The Word was within it.
2. The First. Notice this position. It must go first. "Where He leads me, I will follow." By a miracle they will cross the Jordan on dry ground, if it goes first. See Matthew 6:33.
3. The Fear. Verse four: Follow 3000 feet behind the ark. The obvious reason is the reverence and awe or fear before it. See I Samuel 6:19 and II Samuel 6:7 and Uzzah. Remember Ecclesiastes 12:13 Fear God and keep His commandments. Hebrews 12:28-29 We may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
4. The Faith. The whole section has faith at its core. Two spies have just returned (2:23-24) and reported. Joshua the leader is fervent to begin. The officers command and the people are ready to obey by faith. (verse 3 and 14). They are following the "Living God" (verse 10) and "The Lord of all the earth" (verse 13). Our faith: Hebrews 11:6 and Mark 2:5.
5. The Fit. To fit: to conform, to agree with, adapt to, suit, prepare. Here at verse 5: Sanctify or consecrate yourselves. Set yourselves apart. Leviticus 20:7-8 Be holy for I am the Lord your God. II Corinthians 6:17 Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. I Peter 1:15-16 As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (Leviticus 11:44)

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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