

PURIFY YOURSELVES – Joshua 3:5

1. When Joshua told the people to purify (consecrate) themselves in preparation for crossing the Jordan River, what did that look like?
 - a. i.e., washing themselves and their clothing, repenting of sin, leaving behind possessions they had accumulated that would hinder them from crossing the river, etc.
 - b. What attitudes, sins, relationships or possessions is the Holy Spirit telling you to leave on this side of the river?
2. What would have happened if the people did not purify themselves?
 - a. Read Hebrews 12:1-2, 14-17
3. What would have happened if the priests had not stepped into the river with the Ark of the Covenant?
4. What would have happened if the people did not keep the prescribed ½ mile distance between themselves and the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant?
5. The Jewish “Mikvah” (baptism)
 - a. The concept of being “born again” was very familiar to Jewish people (John 3:3). Jesus was introducing Nicodemus to a new truth about the Kingdom of God.
 - b. Reasons for entering the Mikvah are many: before marriage, before engaging in a sacred act, after having engaged in any sort of activity that would cause defilement, etc.
 - c. When a Jewish person enters the Mikvah there must be no barrier between the “Living Water” and the person’s body – signifying that all of the person, mind, soul, spirit, body, is cleansed and set apart for God’s purposes.
6. Read Matthew 28:18-20. As a follower of Jesus, have you been obedient to Jesus call to be baptized?
7. Read Matthew 3:11-12. The disciples of Jesus baptized people to signify their new relationship with God through belief in Jesus. Though Jesus did not baptize his followers (John 4:1-2) John the baptizer declared that “Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”
 - a. Are you in need of a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by love, power, forgiveness, mercy, boldness, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, purity, prophecy, tongues, etc? (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)