

Sp. Norfolk Jan 5, 1969 A.M. -
S. May - Jan 2 1972 P.M. WYRI -
Dec. 31, 1972 A.M. (R)
Jan 1, 1983 A.M. VVV
Jan - 30, 1984 P.M. VV
HIGHWAY OF NEW OPPORTUNITY
Jan. 6, 86 P.M. Springfield -
Joshua 3:1-5 Dec. 28, 86 P.M. Road Bridge VV
Jan 4, 86 P.M. Brent-loy VV IR.
Dec. 31, 92 (11 P.M.) Brent-loy VV Watch Night

INTRODUCTION:

Louisa Tarkington said, "I wish there was someplace called, the Land of Beginning Again, where all of our mistakes, and all of our heartaches, and all of our selfish grief, could be dropped like a shabby coat, at the door and never put on again."

For instance the New Year on which we are now embarking is simply a new way and truly a new year can become something new for you as an individual. And also collectively as you work together with others, we have never experienced the identical events and the exact circumstances that we will experience during this new year.

We have not passed this way before as the Scripture says. Israel stood on the banks of the Jordan River -- they looked across to the Promise Land -- they had not passed this way before.

Canaan was not a new land except to the children of Israel. They had many journeys, many battles - and this was not new to Israel. But here was a new way for personal victories to take place in the new year.

You want to note that this New Year God was speaking to Joshua. He was the leader and I think in the same way, God speaks to Deacons, Teachers, and Leaders in general. Here is a message.

1:2 First, he says, Chapter 1 - Verse (2), Moses my servant, is dead. Now the great leader as described in Deut. 34:10 was dead. His voice was gone. His personality forever absent. No matter how glorious the past had been, no matter how great the leadership had been, the past was gone forever. There is only now and tomorrow, to work upon. As Paul says in Phil. 3:13-14 - Forgetting those things which are behind.

Joshua was going to be the new leader. They had never journeyed this way. Not one of them had gone this way before as they were coming to the Promise Land.

They had never crossed the Jordan before. And here would be new perplexities and new temptations, new duties as well as new privileges.

Now Joshua lived a long life and he led the children of Israel across to the Promise Land. And he was an able leader. Israel was to depend upon him as their leader. Moses, they loved him, but Moses was gone. And of course his shadow lingered. It was a terrifying experience. Here was a difficult task, of leading the people. And some of you know (how difficult) it is to lead people in work, in civic, or in clubs - you have had responsibilities. If you have worked in your Sunday School Class or your Department, you know how difficult it is to keep a large group of people moving forward together. And this was going to be the task of Joshua to guide these people. He knew their potential and he knew that the cities of Canaan had no unification. And he had the responsibility now of dividing up this land. And this was going to be a chore. Because if you know how people squabble over a little square foot of land, you know that Joshua did more than just a "pep talk".

I think that's why God said to him about three times, be strong and of good courage - that is be determined, be fearless, set your mind to it, and follow the task. And I think God instructed Joshua to stay close to the word and observe and do all that he instructed him to do. And God promised Joshua a great deal that he was going to go with him in this.

- V, 2B - Now they must forget the past and follow the new.

[Joshua 1:2.] He says arise, go over this Jordan. The river itself was strange and the land beyond was strange. But (40 years) before they had received terrifying reports that giants in the new land, and they were instructed now to go ahead whether there were giants or not. (If) God says "go" - then his child does not argue or analyze and rationize, but he must go ahead and do what he can.

This is where you have to (think) about the New Year. You have to forget somehow your sins, you repent of them, why worry about sin if God says he is going to forgive you.

You have to (forget) about your mistakes and failures. You have to use these as bridges.

You have to forget about your successes. I think this is a hard job for some people. They think about all they have done in the past and they just sit there and think how wonderful it would be (if it were like that all the time). Some talk about how it used to be. But now God is interested in what you are doing right now.

You've got to forget your (old grievances). Israel had to forget about the hard way Edem had given her and had to push aside the (grudges) which had come before.

Now as God speaks to Joshua - Chapter 1-5 - (I will be with thee). Now God was with Moses - there is no doubt about that. And now he says (I will not fail thee or forsake thee).

There is never a word immunity from adversity and perplexity. There is never a promise of a happy new year given to these people.

(Only the promise) that his great and eternal presence at the very beginning would go with them. Now that simply is the thing for us to look for. For we too stand at the gate of the unknown. In 1932 when Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States someone asked him which way we were headed. He said "I don't know but we are on our way." Now that may be a good description of us today as we face the future. We don't know which way we are going as a nation, as a people, but we know we are on our way. And if every hardship were known to us, then we would likely give up. But here is the future that we cannot be afraid of as (Paul Rictor) said, "do not wait for extra ordinary circumstances to do good. Try to use ordinary situations". If you are faithful in the little - God will trust you with much.

1:6,7,9 → The next thing God says - Joshua 1:6,7, and 9 - (be strong) and of (good courage). God knew that they would have fear, he knows that we have fear. Over and again he encourages them, challenges them to be brave. In fact (Jesus) actually promised persecution to His Disciples. I wonder sometimes why we are so shocked when the persecution comes to us.

1:6 v.6 → God also said to Joshua in Chapter 1:6 - (divide for inheritance) the land. Now

Little Boy - work with - vision be a preacher some day
girl - signs - vision be nurse or school teacher - day
-4-
young adults must be willing to work -

everyone was to believe that as he marched in God's army, that he was going to share in God's victory. Or that we in the church could realize that every Christian who shares in the work of the church is going to reap in the harvest. And you may sell out cheap but if you will stand with the church, you will reap something of this harvest. Now this is what God had to say to his leaders.

+ Now Joshua speaks to the people. He had the leadership and he spoke to the people, as God's representative.

3:3 → Joshua 3:3 when you see the ark of the Lord. Now this was a covenant ark, it was symbolic of God's presence and power - it was a reminder of their deliverance from Egypt, they were to move only when they saw God's move. Now the Israelites knew this and they knew that the ark had never failed them. It had brought them out of bondage across the Red Sea and they were to move with this ark.

Now the church must move in the New Year as make her decisions as God moves. We must discover where is God going and then follow His leadership.

3:4 + → Joshua 3:4 - Ye have not passed this way before. Now you note this is mentioned again and again. No attempt to enlist the people and say to them that all of this is going to be smooth. And how difficult it is to inspire people to move forward and to make a new commitment in a New Year when people say - well, we have never done that before. Let us kindly but firmly remind you that maybe that's one of the best reasons why we ought to do this in the coming New Year.

3:5 A' → Another thing Joshua says - Chapter 3:5 - Sanctify yourselves. Set yourselves apart. Be dedicated to this task. Now this is imperative to success. No half-hearted dedication at this point is going to do. And I think this is still for us. If we are going to see what God will do tomorrow for us, I think it still means for us to sanctify ourselves. It is hard for men and women to believe this. That what we need is for God to revive us again. And we need to sanctify ourselves to meet the requirements of the way.

You have never traveled this way before. And you need a new commitment.

First of all you need to sanctify yourselves concerning church attendance.

Oh the flimsy excuses that people give. Many Christians seem not glad as the Psalmist said "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the house of the Lord."

Let us sanctify ourselves to more prayer.

Let us sanctify ourselves to more Bible reading.

Let us sanctify ourselves to God and our money to God and do what we can in this way.

This involves first a separation They were not to linger with the heathen people. But to put down their idols. 2 Cor. 6:17-18.

It meant cleansing them. The Lord cannot use dirty vessels. 2 Tim. 2:19.

It meant sacrificing. No one is going to find a Christian life easy. Matt. 10:38.

It meant service. Matt. 10:43. They were going to have to serve their fellow man and to help and co-operate if they were going to follow across the Jordan and to be successful in this mission. But the end thereof is death.

3:5 B. +
Now Joshua speaks in the next place giving great promise. Chapter 3:5. The Lord will do wonders among you. And there was no question in the minds of people about the past victories - the tremendous things, and God must receive the praise from his people for this conquest.

Now when they forgot this, then they fell before the small army of Ai.

God had to trim down Gideon's Army for the simple reason that he knew they would boast of their own strength rather than his. Now the wonders he will do are among us. Now necessary for us - not necessarily with us. For you see, God can operate without you and he can operate without me. And we many times are more concerned about our personal lives and we want to receive attention -- look what we have done. Rather than making known what the Lord has done with his people.

If somehow you could get excited over a new project in the church - if there were no personal praise or profit to come to you as an individual, would you be willing to take part in it.

Happy New Year Greetings

Teacher
Jan 1942



MY NEW YEAR'S WISH

ELEANOR GARDNER BEDON

I heard them welcome the New Year in
With horns and fireworks and shout and din.
I thought, as I felt the Old Year pass,
"What New Year's wish can I bring to my class?
To all those ladies I hold so dear,
What's my best wish for the coming year?"

The very first thing I would wish for you
Is **faith**, unwavering and true,
Strong faith in God, no matter what
He sends this year to be your lot.
Then I wish for you **courage**, strength of heart,
A willingness to bear your part
Of joy or sorrow, work or play,
Or whatever comes from day to day.
I wish for you **love** that will make you sweet
And kind and gentle to all you meet.
Then I wish you the **joy** they only know
Who have won a soul to Christ. And so,
I wish for you **peace** that comes with **rest**
After you've faithfully done your best.

Happy New Year then to all of you!
That's my wish for Nineteen Forty-Two.

Dr. J. B. Gambrell re-
lates a most interesting
incident from General
Stonewall Jackson's fa-
mous valley campaign.

It was necessary for the
general to get his army
across a river one night, so he gave orders
to the engineers to make a way for the
artillery and wagons to go over. He also
called his wagonmaster who was a black-
smith, to headquarters and gave him in-
structions to get the wagon train across
the river as fast as possible. The engineers
went to work in their usual expert manner
to devise a bridge. The blacksmith know-
ing only that something was to be done
in the most practical way, gathered a
force and with logs and rocks and fence
rails improvised a bridge. Between mid-
night and the day he awakened General
Jackson and said, "General, we have got
all the wagons and artillery across." The
astonished general asked, "Where are the
engineers?" The blacksmith replied,
"They're over there in a tent still drawing
pictures and planning a bridge." Never
have we had so many experts sitting
around drawing pictures and making plans
as today. **WE NEED A FEW BLACK-
SMITHS TO GET US OVER THE RIVER.**

4:6 - 12 Stoms - Memorial - of obedience in traveling New way -
Died 67 in Wash Body tucked away in library of eternity

When the Truman Center for the Advancement of Peace was dedicated, President Harry S. Truman said memories are short. Appetites for power and glory are unsatisfiable. Old tyrants depart, new ones take their places. Old differences are composed - new differences arise. Old allies become the foe and the recent enemy becomes the friend. It is all very baffling and trying but we cannot lose hope - we cannot despair.

5:12

Manna Caves - Eat Fruit of Canaan. Mr. Truman was saying that time does not change things - that we have not known

St. Paul's Cathedral Bombed
Statue left French to fix - Hands broken - Repair all 4 left - X 20 1st Buttons

days like these before. That things are different now. I think this is the call of Joshua to sanctification. To give way to hope, we are not to despair. For God tomorrow will do wonders among us and God lives up to His promises. And I wonder how well his followers live up to theirs.

Chapel - sat. Being used and outside country fence - Print not inside - moved fence - include -

Knock Down Tomb Stones, we have a saviour to offer

God will make others happy through you, during this New Year, if you will let him but use you. As a minister once said to a young man, is there a single soul in the world who can look you in the eye and say I thank God for you. You have made life easier for me and better because you came in my life. The young man with tears in his eyes, said, sadly - not one. I wonder if that is true of you.

You can have a happy New Year - you have not passed this way before. But here I think that we will find the highway mapped out for us. It may be a dangerous road - I'm sure it is if we try to travel it alone without Jesus, or without the guidance of God. And I'm sure it is going to be dangerous if you try to travel it without repenting of your sins, and turning to Christ in this New Year.

I think as the visitor told of the Mammoth Cave in Ky. as he followed the guide through the different places, he said that the guide said he would preach one short sermon as he mounted a rock called the Pulpit. And it was short - "Keep close to your guide." It is a practical one on such a tour. And it is more practical as you enter

1969

Young Preacher - Country - Ch. closed - knocked, - I need some body to help me - cut grass - fix windows - paint - + Preached gospel - filled Body - son with spirit of God & the saviour Sunday you fill a City ch - 1st county seat church - Ask people help - Read Bible & pray Christians, Read Bible of saviour to sinners & pray - filled the church - son you'll fill Big City ch - 1st Ch. Palladium Texas, filled - God showing me nothing - what about you, God wants you, try the spirit - tell your neighbors about your saviour - attend ch. each Sunday - Best year of your life -

John

mail
men
James
Faulstich