

far enough

Before battles rose or armies marched, God had rooted His servant in Scripture. Now, with Joshua fully equipped with all he needed, our story edges forward.

Ahead, the Jordan swelled—a broad, restless barrier between what God had promised and what they now had to possess.

There was weight in the air as the leaders stepped through the camp with purpose. Families listened intently to the instructions before turning into their tents to pack.

Israel had heard God's charge. Now they would have to answer it.

The Word had gone out. The next steps would reveal what obedience looked like when it left the secret place and walked into the daylight. Faith would have to put on its sandals. Courage would have to rise to its feet. The nation would have to prepare.

Because the moment was coming when the command to be strong and courageous would no longer be spoken from heaven—but lived on earth.

And as the camp awakened to this reality, a question surfaced:

WOULD ALL
follow?

far enough

remember

The Word of God was the plumbline for every step ahead.



answer the questions

What attention was Joshua to give to the Word? _____ & _____

What was the promise and benefit if he did this? _____

homework

Israel had three days left before stepping into the long-promised inheritance. Joshua commanded the entire nation to prepare themselves for crossing the Jordan—but then he turned his attention to a specific group within Israel.

decode the text

Read | Joshua 1:10-18

Which tribes did Joshua address in verse 12? List them.

- _____
- _____
- _____

What's going on here? This makes no sense sitting here in our text. That's because Joshua is calling on the 2 ½ tribes to come through on a previous agreement made with them less than a year before. Let's look back.

Read | Numbers 32:1-5

Who is mentioned in verse one (also see vs. 33) and what did they see?

What did they ask for, and why?

This may remind you of another character from the Book of Genesis. Who else did this same thing, and what land was he looking at in Genesis 13:10?

Write | Numbers 32:5b

For 400 years, Israel longed to enter the land.
And now, these tribes asked to stop short of the Promised Land.
They would rather just pitch their tent on the wilderness side of the Jordan River.

Read | Numbers 32:6-9

Beyond the obvious trouble of these tribes opting out of the Promised Land, Moses sees two deeper dangers rising—

disengagement ★ discouragement

Disengagement | Verse 6

The Promised Land was a battlefield, demanding warfare, grit, and the courage to face giants head-on. Why does Moses confront the 2½ tribes' posture of "sitting here," and what false assumption is he exposing? What could happen to the rest of Israel if some tribes refuse to step into the battle? How might their disengagement affect the rest?

Discouragement | Verse 7-9

Why does Moses bring up Kadesh-barnea here? What point is he trying to make to the tribes? What pattern does this warning reveal about fear, discouragement, and its potential to repeat in God's people?

Read | Numbers 32:10-15

See verse 12. What is that distinction between Caleb and Joshua, and ten spies?

Look carefully at verse 15. Who is it that would destroy the people if they decided to turn around?

The rebuke here is blunt—their disengagement and discouragement threatened to influence the rest who were ready to go by faith, press deeper, and take possession. Their attitude had the power to spread and hinder the forward movement of others.

Read | Numbers 32:16-19

After their firm reprimand, the 2 ½ tribes came back with a counter offer. What was it?



set THE pace

Numbers 32:7

As believers today, this ancient rebuke echoes loudly in our lives. Sometimes the greatest sin is simply refusing to act. Passive faith doesn't just stall our own progress; it can hinder the entire community. Moses warns that disengaged believers don't merely falter themselves—they discourage the faith and courage of others. On the eve of a new spiritual campaign, whether in our churches, families, or personal walks, we must confront the influence our choices wield across the body of Christ.

"Depend upon it, if we are not serving the Lord our God, we are committing the sin of discouraging our fellow-men. They are more likely to imitate our lethargy than our energy. The sin of doing nothing is about the biggest of all sins, for it involves most of the others." – Charles H. Spurgeon

How true this rings! Our apathy can become a stumbling block, quenching the fire of zeal in those around us.

"You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?"

– Galatians 5:7

Who indeed? May we never be that "who"—the reason someone else loses their passion for the Lord. Instead, let's embrace our calling as pace-setters in the faith.

Instead, let's be like Joshua, whose unwavering commitment inspired a nation. Nothing and no one could sway him from wholeheartedly following God. Be a Joshua for others: walk in a manner worthy of your calling, an example worth imitating. Seasoned saints, keep pressing on. Keep reaching for the Lord's best. When we press on with wholehearted obedience, we create a trail of encouragement that invites others to run harder, farther, and closer to Christ.

Because if we pitch our tents on the settled ground of "far enough," unfolding our lawn chairs in spiritual complacency, we may unwittingly become the water that douses another's flame. Let us rise, cross over, and lead the way—so that no one's walk is hindered or snuffed out on our account. – Instead, may our lives set a blazing pace that draws others forward into God's promises.

Read | Numbers 32:20-27

remember...

Important! What does the Promised Land typify? _____

Every family member in the household of God has the choice to “cross the Jordan” into the abundant, faith-filled, Spirit-filled, adventurous life in Christ. Therefore, when the 2½ tribes chose to settle, it didn't mean God had cut them off – they weren't "kicked out of the family" or "lost their salvation". In fact, Moses blessed them along with all the rest before he died, wishing them well in their land east of the Jordan . (Deut. 33:20–21)

however...

Settling east of the Jordan brought trouble. Despite initial prosperity, the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh gradually fell into spiritual decline. Over time, their distance and compromise led them to adopt the idolatrous practices of the surrounding nations (Joshua 22:9,1 Chronicles 5:25).

The ultimate consequence of all these things came much later in their history. 722 BC.
You'll find it in 1 Chronicles 5:23-26.

Write | Numbers 32:23

What was the sin of the two and a half tribes?

The sin of inaction, the kind that can come when we settle for less than God's best.
By choosing comfort over responsibility, they neglected their part in God's work,
a passivity that can bring unforeseen and lasting consequences.

stepping forward



The two-and-a-half tribes positioned themselves on the familiar side of the Jordan, standing before a decision: stay where life felt secure and sufficient, or move forward into the full inheritance God had promised. Though they honored their commitment and fought alongside the remaining tribes, they preferred comfort and material advantage. Their account warns us how easily we can stop short of God's best. They settle for living at the margins of His promises, choosing what is allowed rather than pursuing what is complete.

God continues to call His people forward into a full, Spirit-led life. He invites us to cross the Jordan, to walk fully with Him, and to trust that His perfect will far outweighs the security of the familiar. God's permissive will may sustain us, but His perfect will leads us into fullness—where His blessings are experienced deeply and His purposes are accomplished through our lives.

Joshua moved toward Canaan with steadfast resolve, placing his full trust in the Lord. That same call stands before us today. Do not settle for less than God's best! On the shore of abundant life lies the fullness of His blessing, the joy of wholehearted obedience, and the adventure of faith—for those willing to move forward.

GO *all* IN
WITH YOUR *whole* HEART