

Joshua 3

We all have strengths and weaknesses. Joshua was very obedient; and he was not a procrastinator. The time had come to suit up and step into harm's way. He was the best man to lead the children of Israel. They were now truly going to enter the promised land.

Read Joshua 3: Joshua instructs the people to not get ahead of God's leading. That advice could be for Joshua as well. That is one major weakness for action-oriented leaders. We do not wait for collaboration, or put ourselves into a position of getting slowed down. I used to have a reputation at work as being the person who could move things forward. The saying was to not bring me into the situation unless you wanted to move forward at all costs. There is a balance.

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 14:12)

For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." (Matthew 8:9)

They are entering a new season. Some bible scholars use the term *dispensationalism*. It means that God creates new opportunities and paradigms at different times in history. God revealed himself one way on Mount Sinai; as compared to having Jesus give us the Sermon on the Mount. We know that God does not change. We also know that God wants to move us along in our spiritual development, via situations and settings. We are all like Thanksgiving turkeys. We require different levels of heat and duration of exposure to fully cure.

"For I am the LORD, I do not change; (Malachi 3:6)

looking unto Jesus, the ^[a]author and ^[b]finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)

Previously, the people only followed Moses under compulsion. They only responded to threats. They really did not want to follow God at all. They just wanted out of Egypt, so they played along as long as they had to.

³⁹ "But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. ⁴⁰ They told Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don't know what has

happened to him!’^[i] ⁴¹ That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made. ⁴² But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets:

“‘Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? ⁴³ You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile’^[i] beyond Babylon. (Acts 7)

They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. (1 John 2:19)

Consecration and Refocusing on God

God is performing the miracles, but the people are being told to consecrate themselves. We are attracted to the things of this world; and we become one with our environment unless we manually break away from what we connect with. We are like something next to an electrical circuit. We need *bond-breakers* because we become one with this electrical circuit we live in.

One of the critical dangers of electrocution is that the electrical current can cause involuntary muscle contractions. This phenomenon can "lock" a person onto the source of electricity, making it extremely difficult to let go.

Similarly, our quests and pursuits can pull us in too far; and we can develop what is often referred to as monkey mind. We might obsessively reconsider the quandaries before us over and over, to a degree that it interrupts normal focus on other things. Many of us are going through much of our lives with a “monkey mind” that’s restless and easily distracted, with thoughts swinging wildly in different directions. (1) The problem is that chaos in our minds will bring chaos in our life, work, and leadership. It will make us anxious and make it harder for us to accomplish our goals. How to know if we’re afflicted by a monkey mind? When our monkey mind is active, we:

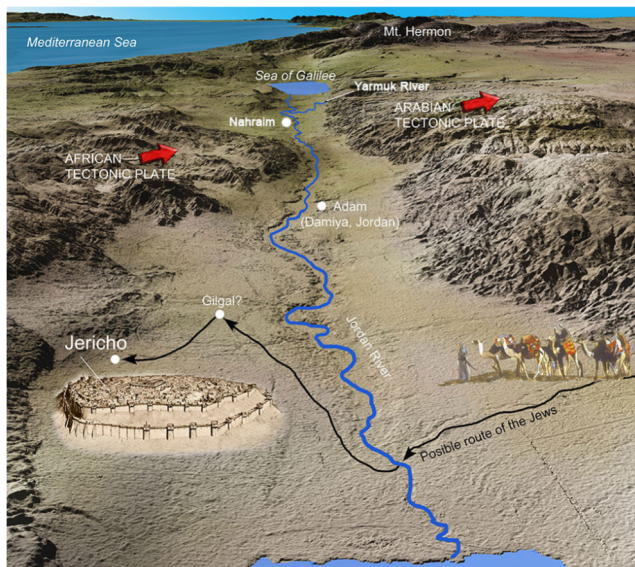
- have scattered thoughts
- feel anxious, restless, and unsettled

- find our mind wandering after just a short while of doing something
- experience mental fatigue
- feel impatient often
- are often bouncing from thought to thought and task to task
- have a hard time focusing on the present moment
- spend a lot of time thinking about the past or the future
- return to the same thought loops over and over again (rumination)

Our monkey mind is a bit like Curious George—always causing trouble. How much of our day do we spend worrying, complaining, or relitigating past sleights? How about assuming the worst and running worst-case scenarios through our minds again and again? These are telltale signs of the monkey mind in action.

All said, the idea of the sabbath, and our morning quiet time and tithing are healing bond breakers that interrupt all of these mental magnates that affect us all.

The miracle of having the Jordan River part was to bolster their belief that God would drive out the Canaanites. Once they crossed that river, they were locked in, with no easy escape for 2 million people. Humanly, it would be a crazy idea to take babies across that river into a war zone.





God will provide greater revelations of his power as we follow him beyond our comfort zone.