

Thought for the Day 3rd June 2020 from Hannah Lievesley (St Chad's)

Joshua 3

Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: "When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river." Joshua 3:8

I doubt I'd have much liked the job of a priest in Joshua's time. Lugging the ark through the desert and then being sent with it, ahead of the people, into the rushing flood waters of the Jordan. But the book of Joshua challenges us to another level of trust and obedience.

Joshua was the new Moses. He was appointed by God to take the people across the Jordan river to the promised land on the other side. God had already promised him success (1:7-8), but that success was dependent upon two things: The people's trust in God promises and the people's obedience to His law. Trust and obedience.

The ark of the covenant represented God's covenant promises: promises to be 'with' and 'for' his people Israel. The stone tablets encased within the ark were the stipulations of that covenant: the ten commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The priest's job was to represent the people to God, and God to the people. So there's something very symbolic in that picture of the priests stepping into the rushing waters of the Jordan gripping tightly to the ark of the covenant. As if to say to those watching, this combination of God's promises to the people and the people's obedience to God's law is powerful. So powerful it can stop raging floodwaters in their tracks.

When God is 'with' and 'for' us, and we are 'with' and 'for' God, amazing things can happen.

How might you demonstrate today that you are 'with' and 'for' God?

What signs do you see that God is 'with' and 'for' you?

