

Get Ready

Anticipating our Future, Crossing Over, and Going Forward with God

Thesis: Our 40-year anniversary celebration is more than looking back and celebrating our past. It involves anticipating our future, crossing over, and going where we have not gone before.

Text: Joshua 1:10-11, 3:1-5

Back in the last week of July during our corporate prayer meetings, as I thought about the anniversary celebration, a shift occurred for me. I got excited. It was no longer just something to get ready for and lots of things to do. I sensed that this 40th Anniversary Celebration is a shift or step into a new season or our promised land.

Here is what I shared at Staff Meeting on 8'17'22. This sharing came from revelation on 7'25'22 and 7'28'22 in the prayer room.

- I am super excited about the upcoming Anniversary Weekend at Calvary. And, I feel this 40th anniversary is a significant threshold for us.
- I have believed that a part of my calling is to help us to possess the promised land of the purposes, plans, promises, and prophetic words of the Lord for Calvary.
- A few weeks ago, the Lord identified his presence as our primary inheritance from Joshua 1:1-9. That revelation was a significant piece of our promised land.
 - *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart*

from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:1-9).

On September 12, Sandy Michael sent me an email which was confirmation to what I had been feeling.

Then my thoughts went to our 40-year celebration and felt like the Lord was saying that there is coming a spiritual shift for us. A good shift, something that will bring joy and celebration. One season is over and a new season is coming. Something new, a move of God that we will shout for joy and celebrate.

For several weeks in our Monday prayer meetings, Jay Kelly has said the following:

I am praying for the 40th Anniversary Celebration. I believe that there will be a breakthrough into this new year.

I have been praying from Matthew 4.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:1-4).

I pray that you, O God, would baptize Calvary Community Church with a holy, fresh fire of passion for the living word of God. Awaken your people to take hold of your word and to spend time in front of the word of God encountering you in your word.

Summary: This 40th Anniversary Weekend is an important event in the life of Calvary as we both celebrate the past and anticipate the future. It is about a **breakthrough, threshold, transition, and new season.**

When God told Joshua it was time to cross over, Joshua told the people to get ready and to consecrate themselves.

1. **Get ready.**

- a. *Joshua 1:10–11 (NIV84): So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: 11 “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.’ ”*
 - b. When you get ready for a trip, there are many steps of preparation like packing what you will need and getting ready to leave.
 - c. We you are told to get ready, that instruction stirs up anticipation and expectation.
 - d. We need a holy **anticipation** and **expectation** for this new season. That is a part of our preparation and getting ready.
2. **Consecrate yourselves.**
- a. *Joshua 3:1–5 (NIV84): Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. 2 After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 3 giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. 4 Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it.” 5 Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”*
 - i. To consecrate means to set apart, to make holy or devote, or to purify.
 - ii. We consecrate and commit ourselves anew to following the leadership of the Lord, because we have never been this way before (Joshua 1:3-4).
 - iii. We consecrate ourselves with new levels of faith, obedience, and holy expectation for what God is going to do in us and through us (Joshua 1:5).

Here is what I believe for Calvary in this season.

- We feel that this anniversary is a time of crossing over with God. It is a time of beginning the process of possessing the land God is giving to us.
- **We declare to the Lord:**
 - We believe that this is a new season of possessing your plans, purposes, promises, and prophetic words for us... and of us going to new levels of intimacy with you and experiencing new levels of your presence.
 - O Lord, come and do amazing things in and through us to your glory.

As a part of getting ready and consecrating ourselves, let's pray.

Prayer points:

1. **Thank the Lord for leading us well and for providing for us all of these years, as he did for the people of Israel.**
 - a. We bless the Lord.
 - b. We thank the Lord.
 - c. We worship the Lord.
 - d. *Psalm 77:10 Then I thought, "To this I will appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High." 11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. 12 I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds. 13 Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? 14 You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. 15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah 16 The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. 17 The clouds poured down water, the skies resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth. 18 Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. 19 Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. 20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron (Psalm 77:10-20).*
2. **May our weekend be an awesome celebration of the past.**
 - a. We praise you O God for what you have done for 40 years.
 - b. We praise you O God for your leadership.
 - c. We praise you O God for your provision.
 - d. We praise you O God for your protection.
 - e. We praise you O God for your victory over our enemies.
 - f. We praise you O God for the adventure.
 - g. We praise you O God for your miracles.
 - h. We praise you O God for you are the Master Strategist; we stand in awe of your wisdom, deeds, and sovereignty.
 - i. We praise you O God for you remember your word and you fulfill your word.
3. **May our weekend be a new beginning, a shift, a threshold, a transition into a new season.**

- a. *"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty" (Haggai 2:9).*
 - i. The best is yet to come.
 - b. *Joshua 1:10–11 (NIV84): So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: 11 "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.' "*
 - i. Lord, help us to get ready for what you are going to do.
 - c. *Joshua 3:1–5 (NIV84): Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. 2 After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 3 giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. 4 Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it." 5 Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."*
 - i. Lord, we feel that this anniversary is a time of crossing over with you. It is a time of beginning the process of possessing the land you are giving to us.
 - ii. We believe that it is a new season of possessing your plans, purposes, promises, and prophetic words for us... and of us going to new levels of intimacy with you and experiencing new levels of your presence.
 - d. We ask:
 - i. Help us to consecrate and prepare ourselves according to your leadership.
 - ii. Help us to stay in step with your presence and leadership, for we confess that we have never been this way before.
 - iii. Come and do amazing things among us and through us.
4. **May we get ready to cross over by holy expectation, proper consecration, and a commitment to get close and stay close to the Lord as he leads us.**
- a. Deliver us from presumption.
 - b. Deliver us from assuming anything.
 - c. Deliver us from our enemies.
 - d. Lead us to victory step by step.
5. **Worship.**
6. **Closing prayer.**