

Thought for the Day 7th May - Joan Loane

Have you ever considered how daunting it would have been for Joshua, Moses' deputy, to take over the leadership of those rebellious tribes of Israel from that great man of God? What if they wouldn't do what he said? What if they all decided to go back to Egypt? What if they wouldn't cross the Jordan? The Lord knew how he felt. He knows our problems before we do!

'But the Lord said to him: "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. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 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. 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. 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: 5 – 9)

So Joshua followed the Lord's instructions to the letter. He prepared to cross the Jordan with all those people, men, women and children, when it was in flood! It had to be in flood so the people would realise that this was a miracle from the Lord. Otherwise they would have thought they'd managed it in their own strength!

'And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses.'" (Joshua 3:7)

The people didn't argue...they walked straight into the Jordan. Only Joshua and Caleb were adults at the crossing of the Red Sea...others may have been children at the time...but they all would have heard about it and now they were willing to trust this God of their fathers. And we read in Joshua 4:14... 'That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses.'

So Joshua emerged as the undisputed leader, no questions asked!

We are travelling through uncharted virus-filled times. We need to be strong and courageous. We need to step out in faith, not turning to the right or the left, trusting in our Lord. It may be that others will join us as go forward in Him.