

Wet Feet

"And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap." (Joshua 3)

In the Bible we read a story about Joshua and his people. They were faced with a risk. They needed to cross the dangerous, flood-swollen Jordan. God had previously opened the Red Sea when the people had to cross it, but this time the priests had to step into the water first and trust the Lord to open the way as they went. They had to get their feet wet and trust that God would honor their faith.

Years ago visitors at one of the national mints were told by a guide that if they first dipped their hands in water, a ladle of molten metal could be poured over their outstretched palms without burning them. A husband and wife were part of this group. "Perhaps you would like to try it," the guide said to the husband. The husband drew back sharply, "No thanks," he said. "I'll take your word for it." The mint employee turned to the wife. "Would you like to try it?" She replied, "Certainly." She pulled up the sleeve of her blouse and thrust her hand into a bucket of water. Calmly she held her hand out while the metal was poured over it. It's obvious that the husband believed at one level, but he wasn't willing to put his belief to the test. The wife believed on a completely different level. She was willing to take a risk.

Many people dislike taking risks. They want the way opened before they move out for God. Often God graciously honors their desire. However, there are times when God shows us the way and tells us to take a step, trusting that He will be with us to help us and guide us. We may not see a whole series of steps and the outcome, but when God tells us to do something or gives us a principle to apply to daily living, we will find real peace and satisfaction if we will step out and take the risk to obey. We need to step out and trust that God will confirm our faith and our journey at the appropriate time.

God wants to use us and bless others through us. Many of us are afraid to take steps to get schooling or training for fear of failing. Some of us have training but are afraid to put ourselves on the line in a job interview. Others of us have made the decision to believe the lie that there is nothing useful that we can do and so we live in the insecurity of government support that sometimes seems here today and gone tomorrow. For others, we sense that we are to pray for someone or to speak a word of encouragement to them but we are afraid of their reaction. We see someone in need and our heart is touched to be a person to help them but we wonder what will happen if we choose to get involved.

God has a plan for our life that He will work in us until it is completed and successful. ***For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*** (Ephesians 2:6) God has promised that when He calls us to do something, He will be faithful to help us. We may feel weak but God's gift to us is grace and strength that is made alive and perfect at the place where we feel weak. God says: ***My grace is sufficient for you. My strength is made perfect in weakness.*** (2 Cor 12) As we walk with God on a daily basis, surrendering our will and our life to him, God will speak words of guidance and opportunity to us. If we will step out with God, and take a risk many wonderful and satisfying surprises will come our way. God invites us to step forward in faith and be willing to "get our feet wet" trusting that God will respond and support us. . *God honors wet feet, not cold feet.*

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What's the difference between a healthy and an unhealthy risk?
2. When did I take a risk and it turned out to be a good step of trust and obedience?
3. In what area of my life do I need to take a healthy risk and follow God's direction and guidance?