

# Jesus IOI

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

The phrase you have not passed this way before has become really important for me in the last few months. As a family and as a country, we are going through things that we have never experienced. Every day, we step into uncharted territory. As human beings, we've never been to the future—yet God is already there. Nothing surprises Him. Furthermore, He promises to guide us there if we let Him.

The time for Israel to cross over to the Promised Land had arrived. The Jordan River was their first obstacle. The ark of God's presence would lead the people; they were to follow it, but not too closely. And I treasure the reason God gave them: "Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before" (Joshua 3:4; emphasis added). They needed to know which way to go, and God Himself was going to lead them because they had never been there before. I hope this assures you as much as it does to me.

And what happened next is another one of the great miracles of Yahweh recorded in the Bible: "When those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water..., the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam.... So the people crossed opposite Jericho. And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan" (verses 15-17). Wow! God has a thousand ways for us to go forward where we see only a dead end...

As with the Red Sea, Yahweh's drying up the waters of the Jordan so that Israel could cross had a very specific purpose: "That all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may fear the LORD your God forever" (Joshua 4:24). Oh, yes! Did I tell you? God is always orchestrating events for His redemptive purposes. Nothing is wasted!

Talbot, Elizabeth *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*, p. 26-27