

## Time to Move Forward

### First In-Person Meeting Since the Quarantine

**To start the service this morning, we want to enter into a prophetic act.**

1. On Monday, May 11, I had an idea about sanctifying the grounds, sanctifying our lives, praying, and expressing our faith and trust in the Lord.
2. When I shared the idea with the staff, we decided to do this prophetic action as both as a staff, at the 4 points of the property (5'13'20), and as a church inside the building on Sunday morning (5'17'20).
3. So, the staff walked and prayed on Wednesday, 5'13'20.
  - a. They used the 4 passages of Scripture which were used in the dedication of our first building and this land back in 1987.
  - b. Then, the staff met in the Prayer Garden and prayed Psalm 91 over their lives, our building and land, and our congregation.
4. Let's face one direction at a time and pray from the foundation verses for Calvary.
  - a. Isaiah 43:1-7
  - b. Isaiah 52:2-5
  - c. Isaiah 58:12-14
  - d. Isaiah 61:1-4, 7-9
5. Now, let's pray Psalm 91 over our lives, this building, and this property.

### Time to Move Forward

**We began the service this morning with a prophetic act of consecration.**

1. We began the service with one song.
2. Then, I lead us in prayers of consecration and sanctification.
3. *"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'" (Joshua 1:11 NIV).*
4. *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" (Joshua 3:1-5 NIV).

For the Joshua Generation, there came a time to move forward under the leadership of the Lord. **The way forward was discerned by following the presence of the Lord.** "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 (Joshua 3:3-4).

Today, I want to equip us with some skills, values, and principles for how to move forward in a way that keeps us in tune with the Lord, in alignment with our God, and in step with the Holy Spirit.

1. **In this season when everything seems turned upside down, remember the goodness of the Lord** (Psalm 100:5).
  - a. Chances are that you or someone you love believes the COVID-19 pandemic is their greatest source of stress, fear, and anxiety right now.
    - i. It makes sense. After all, "normal life" has changed dramatically in the last two months—and continues to change.
    - ii. These beliefs, however, are only a symptom... and not the real issue.
    - iii. **The real problem is that Christians who are drowning in worry, fear, and stress have lost their focus on the goodness of God and his perfect plan for their lives.**
  - b. **Nurture your soul by reading and meditating on the Scriptures concerning God's goodness, his nearness, and his plans.**
    - i. Philippians 4:4-9 NIV
    - ii. *For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations (Psalm 100:5 NIV).*
    - iii. *Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary... (Psalm 107:1-2 NASB77).*
    - iv. Psalm 136:1-26.
  - c. **We need to reframe what we are thinking and feeling, to take our thoughts and feelings captive, and to learn how to speak to our souls with God's help to align with what is really real.**
    - i. God is good.
    - ii. God is with us; he will not leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:

- iii. God can take everything that comes our way and work it for good for those who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28-29).
  - iv. God is in control and has a plan for our lives (Jeremiah 29:11-14).
2. **As we open up the economy, be careful to give grace and not to judge.**
- a. When you see people who are failing to social distance, who are not wearing a mask, or who are coughing on you, what will you do?
  - b. **God gives grace to the humble and the merciful** (Matthew 5:7; James 4:6-12; 1 Peter 5:6-11).
    - i. *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy (Matthew 5:7 NIV). You and I need mercy, so we need to give mercy.*
    - ii. James 4:6-12 NIV
    - iii. 1 Peter 5:5-11 NIV
    - iv. **Catch what the Lord is saying in both of these passages.**
      - 1. Giving grace and saying “no” to pride involves spiritual warfare. It is a way to resist the devil and to draw near to God.
        - a. *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you (James 4:7-8).*
        - b. *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings (1 Peter 5:8-9).*
      - 2. When you cooperate with pride and say “no” to grace, you are drawing near to the devil and opening up the door to his purposes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). You become an instrument in the hands of the enemy.
  - c. **Do not judge** (Matthew 7:1-2)
    - i. *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Matthew 7:1-2 NIV).*
    - ii. If someone doesn’t wear a mask, don’t judge.
    - iii. If someone violates your space, give grace and don’t judge.
    - iv. If someone makes a decision that you disagree with, don’t judge.
3. **As we process these uncertain times, pray for your leaders and don’t judge or slander** (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

- a. *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV).*
  - b. Our leaders are doing the best they can with what they have.
  - c. The burden of leadership is immense.
  - d. **It is ok to disagree with leaders and the decisions they make, but avoid slandering, judging, and condemning.**
4. **As we enter this season, let's choose to look forward to what the Lord wants to do and to his new normal, rather than returning to old definitions of normal (Isaiah 43:18-19).**
- a. *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV).*
  - b. Joshua Rushing: There was a moment when the people of Israel came out of the desert, and "then the manna stopped." An entire nation was no longer getting fed the same way that they had been fed for 40 years. In a moment's time, that all changed.
    - i. There were external changes; I can't wait on manna; I have to get fed in a different way.
    - ii. There were internal changes; digestive changes and ways to receive and digest a new food.
    - iii. So, have been thinking about how that relates to how we feed people and how people eat going forward.
    - iv. I think there will be new messages, new revelation of the Lord to engage and embrace.
    - v. I don't want to go back to business as usual.
  - c. The Lord spoke to us and gave us his word for this year. *"Draw me after you; let us run together" (Song of Solomon 1:4).* We continue to live into this word of the Lord for us in 2020: **pursue deep intimacy and full partnership with Jesus.** I pray that we will come out of this season with greater capacity for deeper intimacy and fuller partnership with the Lord.

**Ministry Time:**