



PART 3 — There is an incredible parallel between Israel’s entrance into the Promised Land (Joshua 6-8) and the Church today entering into “uncharted terrain” following the turbulence of 2020.

What is the lesson for us today?

1. **Preparation** — (Joshua 5:1-12) When Israel miraculously crossed the Jordan River God ordered the army to be circumcised. God named the place Gilgal because there He renewed His Covenant and rolled away their shame.
 - The circumcision of our heart (Romans 2:29).
2. **Dedication** — (Joshua 6:1-27) As the Tithe of the Promised Land, Jericho was to be wholly dedicated to God (destroyed).
 - The blessing of the Tithe (Malachi 3:10-12).
3. **Occupation** — (Joshua 8) After Jericho was destroyed and given to the Lord, Israel took Ai. Then, before they began the campaign of occupying the land, Israel renewed their commitment to the Lord and dedicated their future to Him (Joshua 8:30-35).
 - The Lord told His disciples to “occupy (do business) till He returned.” We have a mandate from God to be about the Master’s business. Read Luke 19:12-13.

What did Jesus mean by “occupying?”

1. When Christ rose from the dead and returned to Heaven, He expected the disciples to carry on the work. This expectation has continued throughout history and applies to us today.

We, too, are to “do business” with the things we have been given.

2. God has uniquely created each of us to perfectly fit into His purposes and plans. This is lived out in two parts:

Who we are — We have been given personalities and gifts and we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14).

- God has created our personality, our motivational gifts (Romans 12:3-8), and our abilities or spiritual gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit to give us purpose and accomplish His will through His Body, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:4-31).
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-27 *...Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*
- Question — Can you describe how God has created you?

What we do — We have been given directives: the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

- The Commandments and Commission include our relationship with God, our relationship with one another (God’s people), and our relationship with the people in the world (light in the darkness).
- Question — Can you describe God’s calling on your life?

In 2021...

1. Develop a habit of not allowing sin, offenses, etc. to have any lasting place in us. Bring it to Him quickly! (1 John 1:9)
2. Dedicate our hearts and our resources to God. (1 Corinthians 7:34). Understand and enjoy the blessing of the Tithe.
3. Apply our lives to be about the Father’s business (Luke 2:49) Find out what pleases the Lord (Ephesians 5:8-10).