



Sanctifying Yourselves for the Lord

Joshua 3:5 - "Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'"

The central theme is that God calls believers to **sanctify and prepare themselves completely** because He is about to do *amazing things* and *marvelous interventions* in their lives. This preparation is not about human action but about the *condition of the heart*, faith, and obedience, ensuring blessings are received and sustained without destruction.

I. Introduction and Theme

- **Speaker's Introduction:** The speaker (a wife) was chosen to deliver the word, translating for God. She emphasizes God's goodness and greatness.
- **Theme:** "Sanctifying yourselves for the Lord your God is about to act."
- **Scriptural Basis:** *Joshua 3:5* - "Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'"

Personal Revelation: The scripture *Joshua 3:5* was given to the speaker on the first day of the year and meditated upon. Despite initial plans for another preacher and feeling unwell, she was called to preach this specific message after hearing the voice "Joshua 3:5" repeatedly.

II. The Call to Sanctification and Preparation

God commanded Joshua to tell Israel to sanctify themselves because He was about to act. This call to preparation was not about God lacking power, but about the people being spiritually ready. To sanctify means to search the heart, to remove regret, compromise, and distraction, and to stand ready before the Lord. "Tomorrow" was not just another day—it was a divine moment of intervention, a day set apart for miracles and God's supernatural movement. In this season, God is calling His people to stop relying on their own strength and understanding and instead consecrate themselves, believing that He is about to do something extraordinary.

Before every visible miracle, God always works invisibly within the heart. The Jordan River represented obstacles that human effort could not overcome—fear, sin, impossible situations—but God alone could remove them once the people were prepared. Israel's delay in the wilderness came from unbelief and self-reliance, yet God's desire has always been for His people to depend fully on Him. What we are walking through now is not punishment but preparation for new glory. God is simply asking one question: "Is your heart ready?" When the heart is prepared, the breakthrough follows.

III. Why God Asks for Sanctification Before the Miracle

1. **Obstacles as Divine Tools:** God doesn't remove obstacles immediately because He wants us to *depend on Him, activate our faith and obedience, and work within us*. Obstacles push us towards God and help us understand that *He is the one* who brings the solution. If miracles come before preparation, blessings can lead to destruction because people may not appreciate God's value or be ready to manage them.

2. **Sanctification as a Daily Decision, Not Perfection:** It's not about *appearing spiritual* or impressing others. It's about *being set apart for God*, separating from things unworthy of Him, even when alone. It's a decision to *abandon oneself to God's will*, to obey His ways even if others mock, and to live a separated life from sin and worldly ways.

Analogy: Cleaning a house for an honored guest – sanctification honors God, not people.

Scriptural Reference: "Seek peace with all. And sanctification without no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14) – peace with everyone, but concentration to see the Lord.

3. Obedience is Better than Sacrifice: Scriptural Reference: *1 Samuel 15:22* - "To obey is better than sacrifice." God desires *obedience* to open doors of blessing and perform miracles. Sanctification activates our faith and helps us manage blessings.

4. Guarding the Heart: Scriptural Reference: *Proverbs 4:23* - "Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life." Our heart is the most important thing to guard. If unprepared, blessings can *destroy* us (e.g., unprepared for promotion leads to stress). Sanctification prepares us to *handle* the miracles and blessings. God prepares the character before the promise, not just to bless but to establish lasting blessings.

5. Tomorrow Represents God's Perfect Timing: God saying "tomorrow" is not a delay, but a *preparation*. God's timing is *perfect*. Scriptural Reference: *Habakkuk 2:3* - "For the vision is yet for the appointed time... it will surely come and not be late." God will accomplish what He has promised in His fixed time.

6. Obstacles as Strengthening and Teaching: God allows trials to strengthen our faith and teach us dependence on Him. Scriptural Reference: *James 1:2-4* - Trials produce endurance, leading to maturity and completeness. The desert was not a place of destruction for Israel but a *school of strength, faith, dependence, and transformation*. Scriptural Reference: *Deuteronomy 8:2-10* - God led Israel through the desert to humble and test them, teaching them to live by His word, before bringing them into a good, prosperous land.

IV. The Power of Sanctification

Sanctification Prepares for Miracles: It allows us to receive blessings *without destruction*.

Holiness and Belief: Holiness enables us to believe before God for what He has given.

Handling Blessings: God will not give a miracle our heart cannot handle. He wants our hearts ready to receive and retain blessings.

Protection for Miracles: A sanctified heart protects the miracle after its manifestation.

Manifestation of God's Hand: Anyone who sanctifies themselves before the miracle will see God's hands manifest in their lives.

Desert as Preparation: The desert experience prepares one for God's promise.

Obedience and Marvels: Obeying God's word opens the door to His marvelous works.

Secret Manifestation: What God prepares in secret will be manifested publicly for those who trust Him.

V. Call to Action and Prayer

Examine Our Hearts: We are called to examine our hearts, abandon wrongs, sin, and incredulity.

Personal Calling: "Sanctify yourself" is a *personal calling*.

Preparation for Breakthrough: The obstacles are a *preparation* for miracles; impossible situations are a *bridge* to divine promises.

God Prepares the Heart: God is preparing our hearts so we will be ready to carry the blessing when it comes.

Focus on the Heart: The most important thing is our *hearts*, as it's what stands before God.

Prayer: A collective prayer to set oneself apart for God's glory in the new year, to become an instrument God can use, and to live a separated life.

Worship: God cannot worship Himself; He counts on us to worship Him. We should become vessels that refuse nothing to worship Him.