

## Have You Crossed Your Jordan Yet?

Instead of a Bible text, I am using the last two lines from an eighteenth century Swiss hymn 'Thine be the glory'.

"Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love:  
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above".

We all pass through those 'waiting times' in our life. For the ladies the time they will remember most vividly are the final days of your pregnancy.

For the Christian, the Jordan has many - and varied - connotations from the Scriptures.

It is where Lot took his first steps to a back slidden life, Genesis 13:10-11. He looked at what the land could do for him, not what he could do for the city in the distance.

It is the river that the Israelites had to wait for God to open for them to cross.

It is the river God divided for the Israelites escape from the Egyptians. It had taken them forty years to complete an eleven-day journey through the wilderness, with the Egyptians' following, and wanting to take them back to Egypt.

The Egyptians were still behind them. Ahead, a river confronted them that was some three miles wide at that point, and deep enough for ocean going ships to pass through.

How do you think they felt when they first saw that expanse of water?

It is the river Elijah and Elisha crossed immediately before God took Elijah to heaven in a fiery chariot, 2 Kings 2:6-8.

The waters of the Jordan healed Naaman of his leprosy, 2 Kings 5:10.

It is the river John used to baptize the people, and where he made the Promise of a Spiritual Baptism, Matthew 3.

Friends. It is the place Christians have to cross to gain entry into eternal life.

It is where Christians have to take the step from the bank of FEAR, to the bank of FAITH. Not try to work out which side might be the more comfortable.

You have to wait for Jesus to help you over. Do not look for a boat to keep your feet dry - Jesus is your ark, and you will not get your feet wet.

Have you got the courage, and conviction, to invite a new Christian to

take that step with you?

Or are you like Naaman, you need to enter the Jordan to be cleansed from your sin (leprosy). The sin of greed. The sins of take and never give. The sin of not talking and confiding with the one you say you love - husbands and wives, brothers and sister.

We need to cross from any sin to all righteousness. Jesus, through the Apostle Paul, has called us to "...present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God", Romans 12:1-2.

That is the Jordan we have to cross.