

THE BIG IDEA: Sometimes we have to step into the mess to get to the miracle.

The Take-Off

When is the last time you stepped into a really big mess?

I can hear your minds going - was it a good mess? A bad mess? A smelly mess?

Most of us are probably not even considering the different types of messes because most of us have been conditioned to think that messes are all bad and should be avoided.

Granted, some messes really are bad - like that big cow patty in the field - but even those can help things grow, right?

Now, we've talked about the remix and how it's a new sound to an old song, but it's when heaven meets earth.

It's the rule-breaking miracles, the mercy-giving Savior, the sin-shattering cross and empty tomb.

We've talked about how messy the remix can be, and even this morning as we've brought some teams back into the building for this service in prep for August 2, we've experienced it.

The remix doesn't feel the same or look the same or sound the same.

But God isn't always about the same. [Isaiah 43:19](#) says He does new things, and so He's usually about taking us from somewhere to somewhere else.

The problem is that we're usually in the middle of those 2 places.

1. The middle can be messy

- a. We've talked a lot about how God's kingdom is sometimes the kingdom of not yet
- b. In fact, this has been a recurring theme for our church, hasn't it? Remember the disCOMFORT series? We looked at the story of how God called Abraham to leave what he knew to go toward what he didn't.
- c. We talked about how the first step is usually the worst step, but we can take it because we can rest in God's promises and God's power.
- d. Look at this picture. [\[IMG Sweden traffic\]](#) It was captured the first day after Sweden decided to switch which side of the road cars would drive on, and it's an absolute mess.
- e. That is a perfect picture of the remix. A loud, chaotic, meeting in the middle type of a mess.
- f. **The middle can be messy.**
- g. It can feel overwhelming and at times, even impossible.
- h. Can anyone relate?
- i. So for all those in the room and all those at home who are anticipating being in the room 2 weeks from today, let's turn to Joshua 3 and see what God called his people to do when they were facing a mess that stood between where they were and where they were called to go.
- j. Spoiler alert: what we're going to find is that the middle may be right where God wants you to be for 2 very important reasons.

2. The miracle's in the middle

- a. First, **the miracle's in the middle**
- b. There is so much to see in this story from Joshua, but let's start with the last verse in the chapter.
- c. [Joshua 3:17](#) is powerful!
 - Where were the priests? The middle
 - What were they standing on? Dry ground!
 - The people walked though on DRY GROUND in a riverbed at flood stage
 - Some estimate the Jordan would have been 100 feet wide and at least 10 feet deep
 - That's a lot of water to move and ground to dry!
 - Notice, too, that the people walked where the leaders stood.
- d. The miracle they needed didn't happen where they were comfortable.
- e. The miracle was in the middle - the flooded, loud, raging, chaotic middle
- f. Hold on to that - we'll come back to it in just a few

3. The memorial's in the middle

- a. The second reason God wants us in the middle is because **that's where the memorial is**
- b. Memorials - altars - come from the moments when God comes through for us
- c. You can't have a memorial without a miracle

- d. Joshua 4:3 / they never would have found the stones for the memorial if they hadn't stepped into the mess
- e. Our obedience to step into the mess establishes a reminder to future generations that God is faithful to meet us in the mess

The Landing

So how do we get to the miracle and the memorial? We step into the mess.

Today's Big Idea says that **sometimes we have to step into the mess to get to the miracle.**

Give me a few more minutes to show you why:

Joshua 3:8 / The priests (that's leadership) had to step into the raging river BEFORE the waters parted

The command was given to priests to carry the ark into the river

1 Peter 2:5,9 / WE are the priests

1 Cor. 3:16 / WE carry the presence of God

When we take the presence of God into the mess, we'll see Him make a way through the impossible!

Today, I want to encourage all of us to step into the mess - the Middle Expecting Something Supernatural

Let's pray