

Noah - Hebrews 11:7 / Genesis 6:5-7 Men of Faith Series

Tonight we are in week 4 of our Men of faith series
Focus of our conversation is Noah.

⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Question: How many of you believe the world we are living in is pretty messed up?

A) Pretty evil place? Anti-God? Anti-Jesus?

B) Do you realize that the current state of our world is NO WHERE as bad as it was in Noah's day?

C) The World was so bad, so anti-God so evil - that God determined it needed to be destroyed.

D) There was only one man and his family that were worth saving!

E) Guys that is Heavy! Ponder that tonight.

Noah was a last day's believer - Flood -
So are we - Turn to Genesis 6

Genesis 6:5-7

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

A) Pause: When it says that God was sorry he had made man - does that suggest he made a mistake?

B) He is regretting his decision? - The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself.

And we read back in Genesis 1 that on the sixth day God made man, male and female

A) Gave them dominion over the earth and the animals

B) Genesis 1:31 tells us this about the 6th day - ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good.

C) But this is what we must not forget - very hard for us to understand

1) God made man - knowing full well what was going to happen.

He knows that man is going to rebel - he knows that in order save man - Jesus is going to have to come.

A) Revelation 13:8 declares Jesus was the lamb slain from before the foundation of the world.

B) So Prior to the Fall - God looks at his creation including man and he is pleased.

1) But he knows what is coming! - He knows man is going to rebel and break his heart.

C) God knows everything Omniscient he can see it

Sometimes I experience this with my grandson Josiah

A) There are so many times when I am with that little guy my heart is full of Joy and praise.

B) I look at him - just a beautiful little guy - 7yrs old

1) Handsome - smart athletic - Kind and compassionate

C) But then I can get sad - because I know what is coming - He will go through a rebellious stage

D) He will break my heart - there are moments when I see his sin nature - so strong - I pray for him

E) Well how do I know he is going to do that? Because all 3 of my kids did

1) Because I did - It happens - sin nature - sinful world

So God is looking at his creation in Genesis 1 pre-fall and He is so pleased - But he knows what is coming

A) Then in Genesis 6 we read he is sorry that he even made man.

B) Genesis 6 is letting us in on the reality that God has emotions - He can be grieved - angered

C) Genesis 1 God is pleased - with what he made - 1,000's of years later in Genesis 6

1) God is grieving over what Man has done with his world - what he has given them.

D) Genesis 6 is letting us in on the emotional heart of God and how Sin - grieves him.

The effects of sin are so deep and so bad that God decides to start over.

⁷ So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

So now God decides to “uncreate” the earth. Think of what this means. Whole cities destroyed. Homes washed away. Roads covered. Buildings inundated. Whole villages flooded. Men, women and children vanishing beneath the waves. The whole earth under the waters of judgment. Nothing like it had happened before and nothing like it has happened since. It was a catastrophic judgment that enveloped the entire globe and washed away every vestige of human civilization.
Ray Pritchard

⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

A) One of the greatest terms of contrast in the Bible.

B) This passage is a great illustration of Romans 5:20 "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."

C) Had God NOT orchestrated a great turn-around, none of us would even be here now!!

GRACE = Undeserved favor - Noah was a sinner just like everyone else

A) But he was also a man who followed God - perhaps the only one

B) God showed him Grace undeserved favor - You and your family are going to survive!

“God looks down upon those with an eye of favor, who sincerely look up to him with an eye of faith”.
Matthew Henry

C) So Noah received Grace from God - and he received a mission from God

1) That would take faith to walk it out!

Turn back to Hebrews 11

Four things about Noah’s faith

1st Noah Walked by faith believing in the word of God

A) God came to Noah & gave him a promise – I am going to flood the earth / water will come down from the sky & cover the earth.

B) Noah live in a time when there was a water canopy that covered the earth / very tropical

1) it had never rained before But Noah didn't question God how happened

⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen,

C) Never seen rain - water coming from the sky - But God said it - Noah believed it.

D) He began living his life for an event that was to happen in the future - 120 yrs later

1) Noah lived believing that it would be a reality.

E) His life was marked by His faith in the word of God

Application for us – Jesus has given us a Promise – “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

John 14:1-3

A) Do you believe that? - Are you living your life in the reality that Jesus could come for us at any moment?

B) Our lives / our priorities / our choices need to be marked by the reality of that event

C) The early church lived with that mentality - the return of Jesus was imminent

D) It was said of the early Church They were not looking for a cleft in the ground, called the grave, but a clearing in the sky called glory! They were not watching for the undertaker but the upper taker!

“When we are consumed w/ the reality of Heaven, Christ is free to consume us on earth. When we realize that our final gain is there and then, we are free to live for Him here and now. When heaven is the transcendent target of our living – then we indeed have the best of both worlds: Christ HERE and Gain there.” Joseph Stowel

CS Lewis – Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in too, Aim at earth and you will get neither

1st Noah Walked by faith believing in the word of God-

2nd He moved w/ Godly fear

⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear,

A)The Bible declares that the fear of the Lord is the Beg. Of wisdom /

B)But it also tells us that THE FEAR OF MAN IS A SNARE.

C)FEAR OF GOD means – Utter dread of doing anything that would displease Him.

1)Not because I am afraid of retribution - but because

I don't want to grieve him - love him

In any given situation we are going to be led & motivated by one of 2 things –

A)Either the Fear of Man or the Fear of God!

B)When we are being motivated by the fear of God - we pause to ask - what is the Lord going to think

1)Is this decision I am about to make going to line up with his Word - His Heart - His way

C)The more we learn to ask that question - the more spirit led and filled we become.

D)Concerned about his Heart - His Will - His way!
HIS NAME !!!

But when we are being motivated and moved by the fear of man - we think and ask this question

A)What are people going to think of me?

B)Friends, family co-workers

C)To live that way always results in a snare - trap -

1)The Line and standard is constantly moving

D)Never fully satisfy

1)Homerun tonight - Hero - Strike out with the Bases loaded tomorrow - you are a Bum

Noah moved w/ godly fear so he wasn't worried about what People thought of Him

A)Noah went against the grain swam against the tide

B)He lived in the midst of a wicked & perverse Generation – but he loved God

C)In a time when it was not popular to believe in God / walk w/ God / to stand for the Lord –

1)NOAH WAS FAITHFUL

D)It is easy to be a Christian when Christianity is in fashion; popular

1)Much harder in an age like today.

E)We need to be men like Noah who are walking in the fear of the Lord - not the fear of man!

The 3rd thing that Noah's faith led him to do what to take care of his family

⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

A)Noah's faith is seen throughout his story –

B)he believed the word & acted upon it – But I am especially intrigued by this phrase

By faith Noah built the ark for the saving of his household

C)What is interesting to me in that is – Check the Genealogy –

1)Noah began this project before his sons were even born

They were born when Noah was 500 – late start –

A)And the ark was completed when he was 600 yrs old – took 120 yrs to build

B)That means Noah started the project when he was 480 yrs old - or 20 yrs before his boys were born

C)He built that boat & made room for his sons & their wives before they were even born

1)By faith NOAH was planning ahead !!!!

D)His Family was the only family that was saved on the Ark

Great testimony of how he took care of his family - while living in wicked times!

A)Guys we need to take care of our families / we need to instruct in the things of the Lord

B) We need to make sure our kids grand kids Know what it means to have a relationship w/ the Lord !

C) We need to not be content w/ the fact that we take them to church

1) or have them in a Christian school

D) They need to know why we go to church / what is the purpose ?

1) We exist to glorify God

We need to tell them the bible says there are certain things they shouldn't do /

A) But we need to also tell why!

B) Our Kids need to understand God the Fathers heart!

C) God forbids things because he loves us and it will hurt us.

D) Are you planning ahead to take care of your family?

The 4th and final thing I want us to consider tonight about Noah isn't in our text - found in 2 Peter 2:5

A) Noah was a preacher of Righteousness

B) For 120 years Noah wasn't just building a boat - He was a preacher

C) Calling on people to turn from their sin and turn to God

Imagine how Crazy Noah must have seemed.

A) He starts gathering wood - supplies - construction starts

B) Pretty soon - people are seeing the enormity of what he is building?

C) What are you Building Noah - Ark - why ?

Rain is coming - water from the Sky to flood the whole earth!

A) People are laughing at him -

B) Saturday afternoon activity - lets go make fun of Noah.

C) Why so big? - All the animals are coming - Crazy

For the first few years Noah is the laughing stock of the community

A) For the next 117 he is avoided

B) But Noah didn't just build he preached - he warned

C) We are also called to be Preachers of Righteousness
¹³ Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:13-15 CSB

D) In order for that to happen you have to be around people! - See that Hope in actions - attitude

1) They way you talk and handle things

So we learn this about the faith of Noah:

- 1. His faith was based in the Word of God**
- 2. He moved with godly fear**
- 3. He took care of his household = family**
- 4. He was a preacher of righteousness**

B) Noah wasn't perfect - after the Flood we read of a time got drunk - left himself exposed

C) God isn't calling us to be perfect

Just be Faithful

A) Stewards - Be faithful to what God has given you

B) The task he has given you!

C) Close with this - God's commandments are God's enablements

D) The Man with the Withered hand

Back to Grace:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. ~ 2 Corinthians 12:9-10