

Faith to Follow

Media Reference Number GSX654 – August 15, 2018

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Hebrews 11:7

**What if God asked you to do something that simply seemed too big?
What if God asked you to do something that no one would really understand?
What if God asked you to trust Him with something you couldn't figure out?**

The account of Noah's life extends way beyond a colorful children's book or animated movie. His life is a testimony that has been recorded for every generation throughout humanity to look at and learn from. His life is referenced in many of the book of the Bible

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| - Genesis | - Matthew |
| - Numbers | - Luke |
| - Joshua | - Hebrews |
| - 1 Chronicles | - 1 Peter |
| - Isaiah | - 2 Peter |
| - Ezekiel | |

Today we are not going to learn about a bunch of animals on a boat but a man who was challenged by his culture and called by God.

Read Genesis 6:5-22

We could learn a lot through this story:

- God is all knowing (omniscient – Gen. 6:5)
- Humanity is responsible for it's own mistakes (sin nature – Gen. 6:12)
- God is grieved by evil deeds and wickedness (Gen 6:6 – sorry & grieved)

Consider his culture, how bad could it really have been? Extreme wickedness.

What does it take to exhaust the mercy of God? We have never seen it, yet Noah found grace.

- God is gracious, but extremely holy and will deal with sin.

All this is in the account of Noah & the building of the ark. But the overriding truth that is woven throughout the entire story and carries on even into the New Testament isn't just a lesson about God & man, but insight into genuine faith and what it takes to follow The Lord.

There are 5 things that we can learn from Noah's walk with God

Hebrews 11:7

God Guards Our Future

"...being divinely warned... of things not yet seen"

No tangible evidence or example... it will require **FAITH**.

Divinely warned: God is the one giving you a heads up.

Matthew 2:12 not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Acts 10:22 ... Cornelius the centurion, "divinely instructed" to summon Peter to his house.

Note: you won't have to "guess" or "hyper spiritualize" if God is leading you.

The Lord may point out:

- **Places not to go** (may not have the appearance of evil)
- **Things not to do** (others may be ok with it)
- **People not to be with** (you think they are cool)

If you ignore the Lord you will follow your flesh... and the evil one.

Ephesians 2:2-3 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh & of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Like watching a moth fly into a bug light, Satan sets traps for the selfish-minded person to walk right into.

- **Cain & Able**
- **Samson & Delilah**
- **Peter's Denial**

Daily Crucifixion (Noah didn't like the whole thing)

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him *deny* himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Backyard vs. Disneyland... not yet seen

1 Corinthians 2:9 but as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.

Your most amazing dreams are lame compared to what God has in store for those who love him

What God has in store is truly amazing... but it does come at a cost.

You must be willing to kiss the world goodbye. Noah did!

Being divinely warned of things not yet seen...

True Faith Produces a Godly Fear

"moved with godly fear..."

Fear vs. Afraid

Afraid: to experience worry or to be scared of...

Acro - phobia: Fear of heights

Aero - phobia: Fear of flying

Arachno - phobia: Fear of spiders

Scoliono - phobia: Fear of school

Phobo - phobia: Fear of having a phobia

Fear: Extreme reverence, to be awestruck

- Why you don't drive through a red light.
- Touch a hot stove
- Why a kid won't hit their sister or slam the door in mom's face.
(wait until your father gets home.)

Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Noah was *MOVED* with godly fear

NOT that it is something that he took with him **Your luggage, Bible**
It is what moved him along **The current in a river, car taking you to work.**
"Faith in God brings a fear of the Lord that keeps you on the narrow path."

The fear of the Lord is what drives the Christian to do what is not natural
Be kind with your words
Avoid or even stop gossip
Not seek revenge or to write people off forever
Flee youthful lusts
Forgive those who wrong you (70x7)

PAUSE: this doesn't mean you must be perfect!!!

Noah wasn't perfect but he did walk with God and want to serve Him.

Faith & Obedience are inseparable

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

*If you say you love the Angels but are wearing Dodger clothing...
If you say you love your mamma but never respect what she says...
If you say you love The Lord but you live the way you want...*

This was a long term project... no bandwagon Christianity.

Faith Prepares

The ark was just preparation for what the Lord was going to do (50-75 years)
Built the ark, stocked the ark, loaded the ark, got onto the ark.

Prepare: carries with it the idea of being very detail-oriented, not sloppy

The question

NOT, are you prepared for what God is going to do?

Are you preparing for what God is going to do in your life? *(for the things not yet seen)*

Reading, praying, fellowship, etc. are not what God has for you... these are what prepare you for what God has for you.

You don't have to worry about "what you need to do today," just wake up everyday willing to do whatever He asks.

Faith Makes An Impact

Because you work, your kids eat... have clothes... get to do fun things... etc.

Because Noah obeyed... ***his family got to live***

Rail Road Wreck - Clear signals are everything

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save *(to keep safe & sound or to rescue) both yourself and those who hear you.*

On the flip side...

Condemned the world (God was doing the judging... Noah was just a constant reminder of it.)

His actions were a daily reminder of the judgment that was coming. The death sentence was issued and on it's way.

Unique smells that you love, smells that you hate.

Not everyone will like the fact that you follow Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

By faith Noah:

- Divinely warned of things not seen (trusted God with his future)
- Was moved by a reverential fear of the Lord that drove him to stand out long term.
- Prepared the Ark
- Made a lasting impact
- Became an heir of the righteousness of Christ

Faith transforms us from Children of wrath to children of God

Became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

An heir: one who receives his allotted possessions by right of sonship

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

What is it that we are given?

- Everything... all the riches in the heavenly places
- No more pain, sorrow, tears or death
- Eternal Life
- *Righteousness which is according to faith...*

Monopoly Money

- **Righteousness of Christ**

Philippians 3:9 ...not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith

It all happened, "by faith..." truly trusting in the Lord, having enough faith to follow Him, even into things not yet seen.

For most, it is a clear reminder to be preparing and trusting.

For some, you are up against hard times and you know God is calling you to stand up and stand out. Do it NOW!

For others... Noah was willing to kiss the world goodbye... are you?