

BEING A MAN OF THE FLOOD, PART 2

Scriptures from the Life of Noah by Pastor Justin Scheffek

Yesterday we started our study on life of Noah by examining key arguments for the flood account and looking at some defense of God's character in it. Men today want to discredit the flood and take it lightly as a local flood or they try to mar God's character and say He's an unjust or cruel God because of it. However, we saw last night that this flood was worldwide and we also saw God's grace – man had plenty of time to respond to the promptings of God's Spirit and warning through the preaching of Noah or others about a coming judgment. It was not His desire for men to perish the way He did but it had reached a point where in their rebellion against Him it had become necessary for the judgment of divine wrath.

The seriousness and the severity of God's wrath upon the entire world like this should increase our appreciation for God's grace today, especially for the mercy and grace we have in Christ that we don't deserve. The flood of Noah gives us a clear and unforgettable image of how vile and repulsive our sin is to a holy Creator God. It should do away with pride and rebellion, humbling us and increasing our praise for His mercy on us, while causing us to worship our God with our very lives – living pure, godly lives. **And that's what Noah did. When we think of Noah we typically think of him as a man of God, but this weekend I want you to think of him as a man of the flood.** Noah was the man of the flood. He lived in light of an impending judgment, a coming judgment. But you know what? So do we. **You and I both know that there is a flood of judgment coming upon those who have not placed their faith in Christ.** And so Noah is going to be our example this weekend as to how we should live in light of a coming judgment. **We'll start looking at several "marks" of what it means to be a man of the flood.**

I. **MARK #1 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD WALKS WITH GOD. (6:5-12)**

The Bible says all flesh on earth was corrupt in the sight of God; it says it was filled with violence, its wickedness was great, and every intent of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually – that's the reason for the flood itself. Every intent of man's heart was only evil continually. Despite the conviction and prompting of the Spirit to righteousness and the mind knowing truth, they rejected it and suppressed it and exchanged God for a lie (Rom. 1:18-32). They loved the darkness rather than the light (Jn. 3:19). The book of Jude (14-16) adds to this by saying that during Enoch's time (who would've been Noah's great grandpa), the people were ungodly grumblers, fault finders (always casting blame), and lust followers who spoke arrogantly, trying to flatter people only for the sake of gaining advantage (self-exalting). So from Enoch to his great grandson Noah, nothing had changed and at this time in history. What made matters worse is that it was accompanied by **zero moral restraints and zero social restraints**. There was no government instituted by God until after the flood (Gen. 9:6) – no cops or military; no checks and balances or penal system for doing wrong – it was just a free for all. No penalty for murder or theft. It reminds me of the days of the Judges, when the Bible tells us everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Sin just went unchecked in this limitless and lawless world of corruption.

One of the sinful cities of that time that was booming in population (Gen. 6:1), mentioned in Genesis 4:17, was the industrious and innovative City of Enoch. Ancient man was not as clueless as he is usually portrayed to be, walking around with clubs and dragging his knuckles (that's evolution's idea). But this city of Enoch was built by Cain, murderer of Abel, when he went out from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden (Gen. 4:16-17). It was named after his son, Enoch (not to be confused with the godly son bore to Jared and called Enoch

also) and was the birthing center of a *God-rejecting, self-sufficient society*. According to Charles Ryrie the city had its, “sense of guilt eased by cultural development and geographical expansion,” and Bible teacher Warren Wiersbe also says, “In the city of Enoch, they had everything but God.” Satan desired to use Cain’s line to destroy the godly line of Seth, through whom Christ would come, which is part of the reason for God to flood the world. He was preserving the lineage through which Christ would eventually come.

Thank God for Noah! Because while the rest of the world was walking according to their own way, following their own lusts that come from their wicked hearts, here he is – standing out as a flower among thorns in the eyes of God. In fact, the word used for *favor (hen)*, when it says Noah found **favor** in the eyes of the Lord, is the **same word for grace** in the OT and it’s **the first mention of grace found in the Bible. Even in the most wicked moments in history, you still find God’s grace. Just like man’s greatest wickedness and God’s greatest grace both met on the cross.** Noah found God’s grace.

The Bible says Noah was a righteous man and a blameless man. That doesn’t mean he was perfect, as we’ll see, but that he hungered and thirsted for righteousness and took our holy God seriously. He wasn’t mindlessly falling in line with the ways of the world and the pattern of this world. **He wasn’t doing what everyone else was doing because it was the cool thing to do or because it was the normal thing to do. He actually thought about what God would think of his life’s choices.** He didn’t chase what was the latest and greatest devices or fads to come out the City Enoch. He used his mind. He actually thought about what God would think of his choices and made decisions based on that, and not on some personal, temporal pleasure.

And that’s just it: **to walk with God you have go against the grain of this world.** You have to ask that question, “What would God think if I did this?... if I did that?”

❖ **To be a man of the flood means being more concerned about what God thinks of you than what people think of you. You have to fear God more than you fear man.**

False teachers in the Bible are known for preaching false gospels that please sinners’ ears because they fear persecution from men (Gal. 1:10; 6:12). The **sinful world** can tolerate a watered-down gospel message that excuses the sin nature and license. The **religious world** can tolerate a watered-down gospel message that allows for pride and legalism by adding works to salvation. But the pure gospel message won’t allow either work of the flesh: license or legalism. It confronts both and says **we only live by grace through faith in Christ.** Noah lived by faith. He believed God’s testimony and because of that, he also walked with God.

Noah’s decision to go against the grain of the world and walk with God in a corrupt culture reminds me of a couple other biblical characters who did the same. One is **Daniel**, who instead of enjoying all the great luxuries of Babylon and being indoctrinated with the teachings of the Chaldeans, made up his mind not to defile himself with the king’s requests (Dan. 1:1-9). The second is **Moses**, whom Hebrews 11:24-26 tells us, “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.” Moses had an eternal perspective that saw through the chintzy and fleeting and misleading pleasures of the best Egypt could offer, which was the best in the world at the time, and had a conviction to live for something greater: eternal riches. Being a man of the flood requires you to live with your sights set on the future of eternity and not merely the here and now.

When me and my wife spent some time in South America doing missionary work there, I noticed several billboard signs in the city that read, “**Solo escucho mi corazon,**” which means, “**I only listen to my heart.**” These signs usually had someone on them drinking hard alcohol and with a big smile, having what appeared to be a great time. Those signs really irritated me because I was an alcoholic for years, even being voted the biggest alcoholic in my graduating high school class, and I can tell you that those signs are lies. They are not long-term reality. The reality of alcohol is your friends rolling their car on a back road and dying prematurely. Reality is your uncle, nicknamed ‘Whiskey’, lying on a hospital bed and turning a yellowish color from toxins as his liver fails to filter them out. Following the lusts of the heart is the way that seems right, but leads to death because and the heart is desperate for wickedness (**Prov. 14:12**; Num. 15:39; **Jer. 17:9**). Following the heart is a sure-fire way to self-destruction. Noah and Moses decided against it and was preserved for it, illustrating perfectly **1 John 2:17** which reads, “The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

Those who are living like a man of the flood are those who are walking with God. They realize they have a daily responsibility to walk with God, keep short accounts with him when they sin, confessing it and thanking Him for His forgiveness. Noah is evidence that just because the world is corrupt that we live in, it can’t be used as an excuse for not walking with God. Noah made up his mind to walk with God in a corrupt culture and found God’s favor!

II. **MARK #2 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD WORKS FOR GOD. (6:13-22; HEBREWS 11:7)**

This always comes *after* someone find His grace. We never work for grace, otherwise it’s no longer grace (Rom. 11:6). By definition, grace cannot be earned. Don’t put the cart of service before the horse of salvation. Read 6:13-22. Hebrews 11:7 adds, “By faith, Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” Note how Noah was faithful in working for God.

A. Faithful Each Day

For decades – **day, after day, after day, Noah faithfully wakes up and goes to work for God.** Whether it was sawing lumber or laboring in the fields to store up hay for the animals when it was time to cut, he did what God had called him to do and he did by the sweat of his brow and he did it by faith. **He did it by the sweat of his brow because it was hard work. Noah did it by faith because no one had ever seen rain before.** Everyone thought he was nuts. He was probably laughed at on every occasion while building the ark. He was probably **the joke of the town.** Imagine men and women down at the market place saying things like, “*Have you seen that ridiculous thing Noah’s building lately?*” and them responding something like, “*Have I? How could I miss it? I still can’t believe he’s building that ridiculous thing!*” Despite the darting comments from those downtown and those passing by, Noah remains faithful day after day. You can’t live today on yesterday’s faithfulness. You must decide every day to live for Him. Making one decision to live for Christ at camp isn’t going to change the fact that every day you must decide to walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 26) and work hard for the Lord.

And never forget that anything we do can be worship. If we have our motives right in working for God – even if it’s fixing a tractor or checking cattle, running a cash register or sweeping a floor or washing dishes, it can all be very worshipful – even eating and drinking (Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31).

B. Faithful In Each Instruction/Command

What I love about Genesis 6 and Noah's building the ark, is that God gives Noah very specific dimensions and instruction. God gives him the length, breadth and height that it should be. He tells him how many stories it should have and where to put the window and the door. This is not unlike God. It's just like when he gave dimensions for the tabernacle or temples. God gives guidelines. When the Israelites built these structures, they weren't just making things up as they went along but did it according to God's Word. When Noah built the ark, he was building it according to God's Word. It wasn't just some vague instruction to build an ark in general. He told him to build an ark and told him how to build it. If he didn't build like God said, it would have sunk. Jesus spoke of this principle in Matthew 7:24-27. If you build according to My Word, you will build on rock, a firm foundation. If you don't build according to My Word, you're building on sand and when the storm hits, the structure will collapse.

Some of you may recall the story of Uzza. King David is bringing the ark of God up to the city of David on a cart but when oxen upset the cart, Uzza reaches out to steady the ark and God strikes him down dead. Why did God react the way He did? Wasn't Uzza doing something good in trying to steady it? The fact of the matter is that they weren't transporting it according to God's Word in the first place! If they had just transported it the way God said, having men carry it on their shoulders, rather than on a cart pulled by oxen, it never would have been upset in the first place. Uzza wouldn't have had to touch it. There was a lack of attention to the details of God's Word.

We should always desire to do things according to the details of the Word, the best we know how. What does God's Word say about **dating and marriage**? What does it say about **raising kids**? Handling **finances**? What does it say about **how the church should operate**? About how we should conduct ourselves in the Church? The role of men and women? We have to ask these questions because the word, flesh and devil are constantly trying to force us into its mold so if we're not careful to read God's Word, we can easily do things that contradict what He has told us to do. If we follow our hearts desire, it'll lead us astray so we need to get to know God's Word.

Every word in the Bible is inspired and if we really believed that, we would try our best to be seeking out the meaning of those words. Many people and churches today have lost their *genuine* spiritual influence because they've been influenced by the world and the pragmatic ways of doing things instead of just going about it God's way. Preaching the Word and studying it systematically has been replaced with entertainment and games. The Word is the main thing. Your church is not there to entertain you and your pastor is not there to put on a show for you. Here is there to teach you and called by God for that purpose. As a church or ministry, we can't just operate at random or do things because they sound good or because other churches are doing it and seemingly successful at drawing people. God has given us specific instructions on how to live and operate and we need go to the Word to find out what those specifications are.

Paul charged Timothy in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, before the whole heavenly court, to maintain his principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality. That's how we should serve God! Doing nothing in a spirit of half-heartedness, but with all our heart, in humble eagerness, according to the details of His Word the best we know. If Noah didn't build the ark God's way, it would of sank. But also, when you do things God's way, don't be surprised if you get laughed at just like Noah. You might become the laughing-stock of the town. But who cares? God loves to use the foolish to shame the wise. You know that D.L. Moody's nickname was before he became famous and Christians started idolizing him? "Crazy Moody!" Be

willing to look like a fool for God because the message of the cross is powerful and it is always going to be foolishness to those who don't believe.

III. **MARK #3 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD WITNESSES FOR GOD. (2 PETER 2:5)**

For this point we need to look beyond Genesis to 2 Peter 2:5 which says that “God...did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.” What I want us to see here is that...

A. **God always has a preacher.**

Noah was a preacher of righteousness and probably for 120 years speaking about the flood. No matter corrupt and wicked the world seems gets, God always has a witness to speak for him. What I love about this characteristic of Noah is that we could say he is just taking after great grandpa! Preaching was a family matter! The little book of Jude again reveals to us that Enoch prophesied about God coming in judgment as well. Enoch said God would come to convict the ungodly of their deeds and harsh things done and said against God (Jude 1:14-15). What we can learn from that is that

❖ **Sometimes God's messengers are called upon to preach some difficult truths.**

Think of the two witnesses from Revelation 11 are going to speak for God for three and half years of the tribulation period. These two men testify for God and prophesy to the world during this terrible time and the world wants nothing to do with them. They're given power to shut up the sky so that rain won't fall, power to turn the waters to blood and when someone tries to kill them, fire will come from their mouths and devour them. Sometimes God's witnesses are called upon to honestly and humbly tell the world something that it doesn't want to hear. Actually, the world will hate these two witnesses so much that when they finish their testimony and are overtaken by the Anti-Christ, the whole world celebrates and rejoices over their deaths and it turns into some sort of Christmas-like holiday where everyone starts sending gifts to each other to celebrate! Their celebration is short lived, however, as the witnesses raise back to life three days later.

B. **God's preacher always preaches God's message.**

It wasn't much different for Jesus, if you remember when He got done preaching they wanted to throw Him off a cliff once! I can't imagine it was much different with Noah. Like the two witnesses, he didn't tell people what they wanted to hear. I guarantee that when people asked Noah why he was doing what he was doing – why he was building an ark – **whether they were serious or just wanting to make fun of him, he always gave them a straight-forward answer.** He told them judgment was coming. God's people should be people who give a straight-forward answer. Proverbs 27:6 says, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.”

But some false teachers throughout the centuries, like Rob Bell today (Marcion in the Early Church), in the name of love, want to remove all teachings on judgment and wrath and hell and just tell people what they want to hear – and it leaves a mutilated God and mutilated Bible. According to 1 Corinthians 13, biblical love doesn't rejoice in wrong doing but false teachers are always known for telling people what they want to hear – like God won't judge anyone. Lamentations 2:14 says, “Your prophets have seen for you false and foolish visions; and they have not exposed your iniquity so as to restore you from captivity.” God's true witnesses have to expose iniquity at times. **There is no good news about Christ paying for our sin without first hearing and accepting the bad news about our sinful state. You have to see your sinful condition before you see your need for a Savior.** That's why when Paul goes to explain the gospel in Romans, he begins by explaining man's lostness, having exchanged the truth of God for a lie and became increasingly

sinful. You can't sweep parts of God's Word under the rug or skip over parts of it that don't sound pleasing to the ear. Paul preached the whole counsel of God.

This is how Jesus thought of John the Baptist – referring to him Jesus said, ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind?’ No. He wasn't a reed, swayed by the wind. He had a message to preach and he preached it. John wouldn't bend. Men of the flood shouldn't either, 2 Timothy 4:3-4 says that in later times, “the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

I named my son after one of my favorite men from Scripture. A prophet who is basically unknown, even to most believers, whose name is Micaiah. Prophet Micaiah from 2 Chronicles 18 or 1 Kings 22. Not a lot said about him but what is, is wonderful. Jehoshaphat king of Judah and Ahab king of Israel are questioning this group of false prophets as to whether or not they should go up against the Arameans at Ramoth-Gilead and all the false prophets are saying things like, “Go up and succeed! For God will give it into the hand of the king.” One false prophet named Zedekiah even makes some horns of iron for his own prophecy and says, “With these you shall gore the Arameans.” But Jehoshaphat, whom I really like and was a good and godly king, except for the fact that he always got entangled in the trifling of Israel's wicked king's pursuits like this one, asks if there is a prophet of the Lord around. Jehoshaphat hears all these “prophets” and asks, “isn't there a prophet of the Lord around?” and Ahab says, “Yes, Micaiah, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me.” But they go and get him anyways and before they ask Micaiah if they should go into battle they tell him about how he should respond. His response should be like all the other prophets are uniformly favorable to the king. But Micaiah says this: “As the Lord lives, what my God says, that I will speak.” I love that. He prophesies a warning against Ahab that he will die in battle if he goes and Micaiah's prophecy comes to pass as Ahab refuses to listen to Micaiah and has him thrown in prison and fed sparingly with bread and water. In a world of false prophets, Micaiah was a true witness, despite the consequences.

It's important to note that when I talk about being a preacher of righteousness, I'm not talking about some self-righteous person standing on a corner with a picket sign condemning people to hell telling them to turn from sin (God hates you). What I'm talking about is people, saved by grace, who have been given a righteousness from God on the basis of faith in Christ, who are humble and honest – people who know they're sinners too and that they're only saved by God's grace. **True witnesses testify of sin yes, but only to speak more of God's grace. We have the greatest message of love in the world. Jesus died for the whole world.** Noah was a true witness. He didn't tickle ears or hide anything. Noah preached to the people to warn them that the flood was at hand, and even though they wouldn't believe it – they still needed to hear it.

2 Corinthians 5:20 says, “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who know no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”