

Obedient Faith

This week we continue our study of *Faith* today we look at the life of Noah. Noah modeled for us *Obedient Faith*, faith that matters because it says, “I trust you God”. I trust and believe that you are loving and just and although we’re involved in many things around us, (elections, etc.) we’re not dependent on them.

We believe in God, (but so do the demons), we not only believe, we trust him.

Obedience is an indication of relationship; that you trust and love God.

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.”
(Hebrews 11:7)

For Noah, this was something yet to happen and it caused him to act a certain way in the present.

We may wrestle with questions about Noah and the flood and the ark. But the Old Testament Prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, as well as Peter and Jesus and others refer to him in the New Testament...I think we’re on safe ground to take Noah and the events of the flood at face value.

“These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.” **(Genesis 6:9)**

God was grieved in his heart that he even made mankind. But one man stuck out in his generation, Noah. “Righteous” in the original language carries with it the idea of being “*blameless*”, having “*favor*”, speaking of a grace from God who related to Noah.

“The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.”
(Genesis 7:1)

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“Obedience” is a relational word, we are looking at him with a heart that believes of God; “I have your best interest at heart”. So like Noah, we trust him and we are obedient.

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it...” (Genesis 6:11-15b)

We will see in chapter 9, that Noah is not perfect. Ironically the scriptures do not record a word that Noah spoke, but he, “*did everything just as God commanded him.*”

“Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” (Genesis 6:22)

“And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.” (Genesis 7:5)

“...as God had commanded Noah.” (Genesis 7:9)

“...as God had commanded Noah.” (Genesis 7:16)

“As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” (Romans 10:11)

Every opportunity for obedience to God is a fork in the road.

How we act in the present reveals what we believe about the future.

God wants us to have a heart that bends towards obedience. He doesn’t want us to be robotic or mindless followers. It is a heart that believes that our heavenly father has our best interest at heart and loves us.

What God will ask you to do may seem as big and as impossible as it was to Noah.

When we’re in love we will do things we normally don’t do, we’ll do anything for that person...even dare to do amazing things!

When God says to you, “this is what I want you to do”, go beyond the “why” questions and get to the “who” question. The *why* questions will take God and relationship out of the equation. When it’s the *who* question, it is then based on a relationship with a faithful and loving God

take God and relationship out of the equation. When it's the who question, it is then based on a relationship with a faithful and loving God.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

God wants us to be obedient because ultimately it is good for us. God at his core is not really a “rule maker”. He will give us guidelines and commandments because he knows what is best for us. Even when we don't understand why he is telling us to do something at times, he will say, “trust me on this one”. We have to be convinced that he has our best in mind and although he may challenge us, he is our father and worthy of our trust.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ...²⁴You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.” (James 2:14-17, 24)

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24)

“For as in the days of Noah, before the flood, they were eating and drinking and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the Ark.” (Matthew 24:37)

Lastly, many point out how the ark is a prototype of salvation and pointed to Jesus. We see this and realize, how through one man, and his obedience, salvation came.

Discussion Questions

- 1) As we consider Noah and his example of *obedient faith*, please discuss what this phrase means to you: “Obedience is an indication of relationship; that you trust and love God”. (Page 1)
- 2) What are your thoughts about how God wants us to have a heart that “bends towards obedience”? What do we have to believe about God to have this kind of heart? (Pages 2 & 3)
- 3) Randy did not get to cover this on Sunday morning but what

- about God to have this kind of heart? (Pages 2 & 3)
- 3) Randy did not get to cover this on Sunday morning but what does this statement say to you: *“Every opportunity for obedience to God is a fork in the road”*?
 - 4) On page three of your notes Randy challenged us to get beyond the “why” questions and get to the “who” question. What does this mean to you?
 - 5) Also on page three, there will be times when we have questions and God will say something similar to, “just trust me on this one”. Has this ever happen to you or someone you know? Lastly discuss the difference between God being a “rule maker” versus a faithful, proven father who always has our best at heart.