

The Faith of a Righteous Man

Lesson for Sunday, July 31, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- Describe a time you acted in faith.
- What is faith? *Allow for some discussion, maybe have the class form a definition.*
 - Is it simply believing or is more involved? What makes faith easy at times and difficult at others?
- Of all the characteristics of Noah, he stands as a great example of what it means to live by faith. In fact, his faith is recorded in the Bible's Hall of Faith chapter (Hebrews 11).

BIBLE STUDY:

1. God's Warning to Noah (Hebrews 11:7)
 - a. We will see that Noah responded to God in faith. But what was he responding to? "Being warned of God of things not seen as yet." God came to Noah with a warning.
 - b. Last week we discussed what brought God to this point. Reference Genesis 6:5-8, 11-14, 17-19, 22.
 - i. The earth had become so wicked that it was filled with corruption and violence. It was so corrupt that every imagination of man's heart was corrupt and evil.
 - ii. Man had reached the point of no return; he would never repent and return to God. God was left with no choice: the earth had to be destroyed.
 - c. But there was one man on earth who was godly. Noah worshipped and honored God in his life. Therefore, God warned Noah of the coming judgment upon the earth.
 - i. God told Noah to prepare an ark and the ark would save him, his family, and two of every animal.
 - ii. God also told Noah to warn the world of coming judgment.
 - d. This was God's Word to Noah. It was a message of judgment (the world would be destroyed), but also a message of grace (Noah's family would be spared).
2. Noah's Response God (Hebrews 11:7)
 - a. The text indicates that Noah had a two-fold response: inward and outward.
 - b. Inward: "moved with fear."
 - i. The word *fear* means with godly fear.
 - ii. It has the idea of reverence and standing in awe of God and His warning.
 - iii. Noah understood Who was warning him and what He was about to do on the earth.
 - c. Outward: "prepared an ark."
 - i. Within the Greek definition of fear, is the idea that the correct inward response provokes an outward reaction.
 - ii. True "fear of God" is acted upon. The hearer of God's message acts so that they do not fall under God's judgment.
 - iii. In a proper fear of God, one diligently takes God at His Word and immediately acts on what God has said.
 - d. Noah believed God's warning of coming judgment, and he began to build the ark knowing that what God said would come true.
 - e. This point begins to reveal to us an important aspect of true, biblical faith. It is more than an intellectual assent to God's Word. It is immediately responding obediently to what God has said to be true.
 - f. What did Noah do that proved his faith?
 - i. Noah stood fast in his faith despite the mockery of the world. Noah lived far, far inland from the ocean; he was nowhere close to the sea or to the shipbuilding yards of the world. Yet, there he was building a ship as large as an ocean liner.

- ii. He preached the righteousness and coming judgment of God. In the eyes of the world he was nothing more than a fool preacher, but the mockery and abuse did not deter him.
3. Noah's Reward from God (Hebrews 11:7)
 - a. Our text refers to three rewards that Noah received because of his obedient faith:
 - i. "The saving of his house"
 - ii. "He condemned the world"
 - iii. "Became heir of the righteousness that is in faith"
 - b. Noah's house was saved.
 - i. Noah believed God, therefore, God saved him.
 - ii. Note that Noah's whole house was saved. Noah's wife and children were blessed to have a godly father, a father who could teach and guide them into the truth.
 - iii. Remember that his sons had married. The young ladies who had married them had done so despite the stigma of the family being a God-fearing family. They could have married men of the world, but they chose to join the family of God, identifying themselves with the God of God's people. Therefore, God saved them as well.
 - c. The world was condemned.
 - i. Noah's faith was vindicated.
 - ii. The world had mocked and ridiculed Noah's faith and belief in God's warning of judgment. But God vindicated Noah's faith; God judged the world. And the world saw that Noah had been right all the time.
 - iii. William Barclay states it well: *"Noah's faith was a judgment on others. There is a danger in goodness, for in the light of goodness evil stands condemned."*
 - d. Noah was counted righteous. Noah "became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

APPLICATION:

- How do we define faith at FBT: Hearing God's Word, believing God's Word, obeying God's Word, and leaving the results to God. Do you see how Noah fits this definition?
- Like Noah, we have God's Word. It is also a message of judgment at the Lord's return, and a message of grace (John 3:16).
- Is there any action to your faith? Or is your "faith" simply intellectual assent with no real follow-through? Like in Noah's time, God is going to judge the earth again. God has warned us in His Word. Do we fear Him and His warning? Do we respond...
 - by standing in awe of Him and His warning?
 - by diligently taking Him at His Word?
 - by immediately acting upon what He has said?
- How do we faithfully preach God's message of coming judgment to our world?
 - A world that lives by science and technology is tempted to trust in nothing beyond itself. Therefore, the idea of God and of coming judgment is ignored.
 - And if anyone preaches it, he is ridiculed, mocked, scorned, and often abused.
 - We must remember that the world's reaction does not change the message of God. We must be faithful to God, for God is. God does exist, and God is going to judge the world.