

Noah's First Priority

Lesson for Sunday, September 11, 2022

Introduction:

- One of the greatest punishments for a child is to be sent to their room. Did that ever happen to you? What makes that so frustrating for a child?
 - It's hard to be in one space for an extended amount of time!
 - How often do you have to get up and walk around during the day to "get out of the office?"
- When we come to Genesis 8:13-14, Noah and his family had been on the Ark for 367 days! Can you imagine?!?!
- What's even more difficult to imagine is what the earth was like when they were finally able to walk off the ark. Psalm 46:8 gives a description.
 - The earth was a barren, mud plain.
 - There was not a single living creature other than those on the ark.
 - There was not a single tree, plant or blade of grass. Probably a lot of mounds of dirt, rock and debris that had been scattered by the waters.
 - No doubt there were rotting the corpses of animals and people that remained.
- Noah was seeing the aftermath of the Judgment of God upon the earth.
- If you were Noah in that moment, what would your first impulse be? What would be the first thing you set out to do when finally getting off the ark after a year?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. NOAH'S PRIORITY: THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP (Genesis 8:20-21)
 - a. In verse 20, we see Noah's first act after the flood was to build an altar and worship God.
 - b. Think about that: Noah's priority was to the worship of Almighty God.
 - c. What is worship? *Have a brief discussion...*
 - d. "Worship" defined:
 - i. Worship is honor and adoration directed to God.
 - ii. The Hebrew word is "sha-kah." It literally means to kiss the hand. It is the idea of prostrating oneself in submission to another.
 - iii. We derive our English word from the Anglo-Saxon. It looks a lot like "worth-ship" and has the idea of ascribing worth or value to God.
 - e. POINT: We all worship something. There are basically three options of who we will worship: God, Satan or Self.
 - f. GK Chesterton wrote, "When we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything." We all worship something.
2. THE BENEFITS OF WORSHIP
 - a. Worship has many benefits. What do you think they might be?
 - b. Worship transforms (Romans 12:1,2)
 - i. We are changed when we present our bodies a 'living sacrifice.'
 - ii. Vs. 2: Worship prevents being conformed to the world (mold).
 - iii. Vs. 2: Worship transforms by renewing the mind.
 - iv. Vs. 2: In worship, God reveals His will.
 - c. Worship allows us to get our focus off of self and on the Lord (Isaiah 6:1).
 - i. Vs. 5: In worship, sin is revealed of which we were not conscious.
 - ii. Vs. 5: In worship, we are led to confession of sin.

- iii. Vs. 6, 7: In worship, we can be touched by God
- iv. Vs. 8: In worship, we hear the call to service.
- d. Worship is the best preparation for the responsibilities & duties of life.
 - i. This of Noah: He had a house to build, crops to plant and animals to care for – yet he first made time to worship.
 - ii. He understood that he wasn't ready to work until after he had worshipped.
- e. Worship brings peace of mind (Luke 10:38-42).
 - i. Remember Martha? She was stressed out serving the guests in the house and frustrated with the lack of help from her sister, Mary.
 - ii. Where was Mary? Verse 39 says she was sitting at the feet of Jesus – a beautiful picture of worship.
 - iii. When Martha complained, how did Jesus respond?
 - 1. Vs. 41: "Martha, you are full of care and troubled..."
 - 2. Vs. 42: "There's one thing you need to do – follow Mary's example.
 - f. There are many other benefits of worship, but these are a good start!
- 3. THE IMPORTANCE OF CORPORATE WORSHIP (APPLICATION)
 - a. In our efforts to worship biblically, we cannot ignore the command to worship with other believers, specifically within our local church.
 - b. Corporate worship is one of the primary identifying marks of a genuine Christian. It is a command we are to obey (Hebrews 10:25).
 - c. Corporate worship carries the promise of God's presence (Matthew 18:20).
 - d. In Acts, the Holy Spirit works in corporate worship (Acts 2, 4, 5, 12, 13).
 - e. We should worship corporately as we follow the example of Jesus Luke 4:16).
 - f. Another example to follow is that of the early church (Acts 5:42).
 - g. Discuss: What are things that have occurred in society that discourage corporate worship? How do we overcome these?

Conclusion:

- Back to Genesis 8:22. How did God respond to Noah's worship? He was pleased.
- This is echoed in Romans 12:1-2 – it is "acceptable to God."
- Don't let worship become discretionary rather than the Godly habit God intended.