

NOAH

Text: Genesis 8:1
Subject: Some Causes And Cures Of Weariness In The Ministry

“And God Remembered Noah” (8:1)

- Question:** Have you ever been weary in well doing?
Question: Ever encounter some obstacles in ministry?
Question: Ever feel insignificant in the total plan of God?
Question: Ever been put “On hold” for a period of time?
Question: Ever needed to respond to unexpected disappointments?

(If So, Then Noah Is For You)

Introduction

“The wise Christian will be content... and serve his generation in the will of God. If he should be overlooked in the religious popularity contests he will give it but small attention. He knows who he is trying to please and he is willing to let the world think what it will of him. He will not be around much longer anyway, and where he is going men will be known not by their Hooper rating but by the holiness of their character”. (A.W. Tozer, Pg. 99, in “Man The Dwelling Place of God”)

(An Encouraging Word)

- Fact:** Noah encourages every believer who is tempted to play the “Numbers game”
Fact: Noah encourages every believer who sometimes compares himself with another.
Fact: Noah encourages every believer who is in prayer for the coming harvest.
Fact: Noah encourages every believer who encounters delays and disappointments along the road of ministry.

I. Noah’s Character

“Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen. 6:9)

(Notice The Three Qualities:)

#1. “A Just Man”

The Hebrew word for “Just” is (sawday) which means:

- A. To be clean
- B. To be upright
- C. To be blameless
- D. To be morally sound

#2. “A Perfect Man”

The Hebrew word for “perfect” is (tawameen) which means:

- A. To be complete
- B. To be wholehearted

#3. “Walked With God”

The Hebrew word for “walk” is (hawlak) which means:

- A. To converse with
- B. To enjoy intimacy with
- C. To follow continually

- Fact:** With credentials like this, you would think that success would be automatic.
Fact: You might even think that Noah would be exempt from pain and disappointment.
Fact: But Noah faced four things we know of (that the enemy could use to discourage you if not careful).

II. Noah’s Causes Of Weariness

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(Be Careful Of These)

#1. Comparison Syndrome Can Zap You:

Fact: Noah preached the truth:

“And spared not the world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness” (II Peter 2:5)

Fact: Noah preached a long time:

“And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years” (Genesis 6:3)

Fact: Noah never made it in Charisma Magazine.

Fact: Noah never made the list of the top 100 churches in attendance.

Fact: Noah never boasted of numerical success.

Fact: Noah averaged one convert every 17 years for 120 years (only 7 family members).

(The Danger Here:)

#1. Is when we compare ourselves among ourselves:

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise”. (II Corinthians 10:12)

#2. Is when we look at “what” we build instead of “how” we build:

“But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon” (I Corinthians 3:10)

#3. Is when we think that God honors “results” more than “character”:

“By faith Noah” (Hebrews 11:7)

A. Noah made it in Hebrews 11.

B. Noah was honored for his faithfulness.

C. Noah won 119,993 less people to the Lord than Jonah,
(but Jonah never made it to Hebrews 11)

(So Be On Guard)

#1. God has called us to be faithful, not popular!

#2. God has called us to greatness, not bigness!

#3. God has called us to look at Him, not the ratings, charts and outward statistics!

(And Be Encouraged)

“For who hath despised the day of small things”? (Zechariah 4:10)

A. The temple was in shambles,

B. The finances were low,

C. The morale was even lower,

D. The people thought that they would never see the glory of God restored! (But God built His church in His time and by His power).

#2. Isolation Fatigue Can Zap You:

Fact: Noah was away from the mainstream.

Fact: Noah was in the minority in ministry.

Fact: Noah was isolated, alone in the wilderness.

Fact: Noah was probably tempted to ask:

1. “Does anybody know where I am?”

2. “Does anybody care where I am?”

(Yet It's In The Wilderness...)

1. Where God develops our dependence upon Him.

2. Where we learn our greatest lessons in life.

Question: Why did God lead Moses through that great and terrible wilderness? (Pg. 2 of 4)

Answer: "To do thee good at thy latter end" (Deuteronomy 8:15, 16)

(Remember)

God Gave Moses "Honey out of the rock"

1. Honey is the sweetest thing in nature,
2. Rocks are the hardest things in nature.

Thus: God will give you your sweetest and most rewarding experiences in those places that seem hardest to you!

#3. Prolonged Waiting Can Zap You:

Fact: Noah waited years while preaching.

Fact: Noah waited years while building.

Fact: Noah waited, and waited, and waited!

Fact: Noah spent 411 days on the ark.

Question: What is a great time of frustration for many?

Answer: The time between when you **plant** and when you **pick**!

- ◆ This is when many consider "other options".
- ◆ This is when many forget the "blade, ear and full corn in the ear" process.
- ◆ This is when many forget that God is working **even when we cannot see him!**

"Though the vision tarry, wait for it, **for it will surely come** and not be overdue one single day"
(Habakkuk 2:3)

"Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing".
(James 1:4)

"That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises". (Hebrews 6:12)

#4. Unexpected Disappointments Can Zap You:

Question: What happens when Noah can finally send out a dove to find dry land?

Answer: The dove returns!

Question: How does the enemy discourage many laborers in their service?

Answer: By the unexpected bumps along the road that surprise us!

Fact: Noah was disappointed in people rejecting his preaching.

Fact: Noah was disappointed in people refusing to enter the ark.

Fact: Noah was disappointed in being put "on hold" over and over again while the land was drying out from the flood.

1. Joseph was disappointed (the butler forgot him).
2. Elijah was disappointed (the brook dried up).
3. Paul was disappointed (the Lord closed certain doors).
4. Job was disappointed (the support system broke down).
5. Nehemiah was disappointed (the enemy tried to stop him).
6. David was disappointed (the family criticized his help).
7. Jesus was disappointed (over and over and over again).

(But It's O.K.) Because...

... God's ways are perfect and without mistake. (Psalm 18:30)

... God's ways are long term for our well being. (Romans 8:28)

... God's ways are worthy to be trusted. (Proverbs 3:5,6)

III. Noah's Cures For Weariness

(How did Noah overcome the causes of weariness?)

1. Comparison Syndrome
2. Isolation Fatigue
3. Prolonged Waiting
4. Unexpected Disappointments

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(These Cures Are For Real)

#1. Faith

- ◆ Noah believed God when He said it would rain.
- ◆ You and I will either believe or doubt what God has put in our hearts.

“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13)

#2. Servanthood

- ◆ Noah was faithful day in and day out to do the will of God.
- ◆ You and I have the joy of following Noah’s steps.

“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 23:12)

This word servant means: “One who advances others at the expense of themselves”

#3. Prayerfulness

- ◆ Noah had an altar and he used it. (Genesis 8:20)
- ◆ You and I will see mountains removed in answer to believing prayer from a pure heart.

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight”. (I John 3:22)

#4. Patience

- ◆ Noah preached a long time, and waited over 400 days before he could exit the ark.
- ◆ So you and I must be careful of setting deadlines and a timetable for God to work.

“I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry” (Ps. 40:1)

Fact: Daniel kept praying. (Daniel 10)

Fact: The widow kept knocking. (Luke 18)

Fact: A friend kept asking. (Luke 11)

Why Be Encouraged?

- #1. Because God will complete what He has started in you (with your cooperation).
- #2. Because God will provide what you need to do His will.
- #3. Because God will turn your mourning into Joy if you place all of your expectations in His hands!

Conclusion

(Why Do I Love Noah So Much?)

- #1. Because he was willing to live and preach a righteous message in the face of opposition.
- #2. Because he was willing to build a boat and give his life for just 8 people.

“And God Remembered Noah” (8:1)

(Do you know why?)

- #1. Because God knew where Noah was and what Noah needed!
- #2. And God knows where you are, and knows what you need today!

AMEN!

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