



Sunday, June 25, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 11:7

Sometimes, we as Christians trivialize the amazing (and true) story of Noah. While it can be convenient to boil his life down the years in which he built the Ark, it is more helpful and more biblical to look at the whole of his life. We inadvertently miss a story of a man's response to God's work in and around him. Noah walked with God, worked for God, witnessed for God, and worshipped God with all of his life. The author of Hebrews draws attention to these facts here in verse seven.

The author of Hebrews is in the middle of recalling men of faith in order to emphasize the importance of faith in God for all believers. Noah lived faithfully during a time where everyone around him lived in willful disobedience to God. His example shows us that we are equipped by God to live in faith regardless of what is going on around us. While we live as Christians, our lives will be noticed by the world. In his own life, Noah was a preacher. He preached to those around him, not out of anger with accusations, but out of a compassion for those living outside of God with love. Noah sets an excellent example for us in a life guided by a true and active faith.

Context

This verse of Hebrews brings to the reader's mind the story of Noah, found in Genesis 6:6-18. Noah provides an excellent example of true faith continuing in true faith. Despite the corrupted ways of seemingly everyone across the world, Noah remained faithful. He witnessed to everyone around him. Though his task may have seemed crazy to some, Noah was faithful in how he worked. Through all of Noah's life we see him obey and submit himself to what God would have him do.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Have two people read (one read Hebrews 11:7, the other read Genesis 6:6-18)

I. Faith Stirred Noah to build a boat

- Relationship with God *v. 8-9*
- Warning from God *v. 11-14*
- Responds to God *v. 22*

II. Faith made Noah an heir of Righteousness

- His testimony *His Life*
- His preaching *His teaching*

III. Faith made Noah an heir of Righteousness

- Following God *Proof of faith*
- Worshipping God *Gen. 8:20*

IV. By faith Noah:

- Walked with God
- Worked for God
- Witnessed for God
- Worshipped God

Discuss

- 1) We often treat the story of Noah's Ark as a child's story, on the same level as a fairy tale or other fiction, but we know that Noah's life can speak to us on a much deeper level. What is the danger of taking a bible truth and making it into only a children's story?
- 2) Pastor Don mentioned that a righteous person in an unrighteous world magnifies both the righteousness of God and the sinfulness of man. Why does righteousness have this exposing effect on people?
- 3) Noah had no way of being able to tell what the impending disaster would look like, nor would he have any idea exactly when it would happen, and yet he heeded God's warning. In this day, we find ourselves in a similar position, as we wait for Christ to return. Paul says that "the Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise... but is patient toward you" (2 Peter 3:8-10). As a result of this, how should we approach our interactions with those not yet in the family of God?
- 4) Read James 2:14-25. How does this passage connect to Noah's response to God? What does obedient faith look like in your own day-to-day living?
- 5) In the face of condemnation from others, Noah boldly continued to live a life of faith, and he became an heir of God. How should we respond to the condemnation we face at work, school, or from the culture daily?