

Great Faith 3: Noah

Great Faith: Think Great Faithfulness.

- Faithfulness is embodied faith. That is true faith
- Faithfulness is embodied faith in a covenantal context
 - It is relational trust that means I act, I stand, I die.
 - **Some of you have done this. Moved countries. Given up careers. Stood for Jesus when no one else has.**
 - Not just I believe but 'I believe something enough that it changes me.'

Last week we saw that Enoch pleased God and God called him home. Bodily.

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death:

- Equally translated 'Through faithfulness...

*6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly **seek** him.*

- Real Faith believes and acts. True Faith trusts then seeks. Pure Faith pledges and earnestly seeks.

So we've looked at the Hebrew believers. We've looked at Enoch. Let's look at Noah.

- **First some context.** Evil had increased greatly in the world. There was almost a universal rejection of God.

*Genesis 6:7 So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." 8 **But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.** 9 ... Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, **and he walked faithfully with God.***

Noah had a relationship with God (walked faithfully) when the rest of the world rejected him.

- This wasn't just belief - it was relational faithfulness. **What we all want in any relationship!**
- Maybe you feel like Noah at times? You have a relationship with God when it seems so many around you, the culture around you rejects him.
 - I hope you do feel like Noah.
 - Noah didn't just have a relationship with God, he had a mission from him.

- You can't be in faithful relationship with the missional God and not be faithful to his mission!

Hebrews 7 **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.**

Because Noah had a relationship with God and walked faithfully in that relationship 3 things happened.

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family

- **Noah's faithfulness saved others.**
 - What if Noah had of said "No God. Too hard. Too expensive. Too risky. Too different. Too long.'
 - Noah's faithfulness save his family. Noah's faithfulness saved him.

By his faith he condemned the world

- **Noah's faithfulness condemned the rebellious**
 - There's always an under spoken accusation against those who say they believe in God 'You're no different to me' 'You say you believe but you're just like me'
 - Sometimes that's accusation is true.
 - But for Noah that accusation was false - Noah was faithful.

and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

- **Noah's faithfulness made him family with God.**

Genesis 6:8 ***But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*** 9 ... *Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.*

- Favour, righteousness, faithfulness, family.
- All these words are relational words first not moral words.
- Christianity isn't about morality it about family.
 - Intentional inclusion/invitation into life.

Conclusion

So what's this got to do with us?

- We're not building an ark are we? Or are we?
- That's exactly what we are building. An ark for the city of Melbourne. All of it. That's what the 2020 Vision is all about.

Noah walked faithfully with God and he saved people. Noah was faithful in his relationship with the missional God and that meant Noah had to be missional.

- He worked hard. He made sacrifices. He obeyed when it didn't make sense. He focused on his relationship with the God who loved him, not on the fact that he was building an ark on dry land!
- Will you do the same?
 - Will we ENM? Will we walk faithfully with our God?

But Ken it's too hard to build an ark in Melbourne to see people saved. To honour God and make disciples!

- Yes it's hard. The 2020 Vision is hard. It will stretch us.
- But remember that Noah walked faithfully in his relationship with a saving God.

Noah walked faithfully and built a great ark but God sent another to build the greatest ark.

- God the Father, sent God the Son, Jesus to build a greater ark with greater faithfulness.
 - Jesus is building his ark. It's called the church. Jesus is building ENM.

This is my challenge to you:

- Because of Jesus will you be like Noah and be faithful to God, so that people are saved?
- Because of Jesus will you be like Noah and be faithful to God, so that the accusation that Christians are no different will be exposed as a lie?
- If you're not a Christian here today because of Jesus will you be like Noah and be faithful to God, so that you join the family of God?
 - You join our family?
 - This is the invitation he extends to you.