



Part 2: Noah

Hebrews 11:1-3,7

God calls us to a holy fear faith that is obedient, risky, and weird.

Holy Fear Faith of Noah

- Hebrews 11:7, “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.”
- εὐλαβηθεῖς – holy fear, Godly fear, reverent fear, reverent regard
- Proverbs 14:27, “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life.”
- Ecclesiastes 12:13, “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”
- Acts 9:31, “Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.”

“I want you to rejoice in this strange paradox that the gospel both frees us from fear and gives us fear. It frees us from our crippling fears, giving us instead a most delightful, happy, and wonderful fear.” – Matthew Reeves, *Rejoice and Tremble*

- This is a deep delightful fearful reverence and awe of God.
- “Sinful fear” vs. “right fear” – sinful fear drives us away from God, it is to be afraid of God. “Right fear” or holy fear drives us towards God.

Obedient

- Genesis 6:5, “The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”

- Genesis 6:9, “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.”
- Genesis 6:22, “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”
- Noah was commended for his obedience. In the Genesis account, it does not indicate that he ever talked back or had doubts, he just obeyed and “did everything just as God commanded him.”

Risky

- To build an enormous boat on dry land was a huge risk of Noah’s time, money, effort, reputation, and safety. Some scholars say that considering the dimensions of the Ark, it took 20 – 40 years to build. This was enormous risk to Noah and his family surrounded by a wicked and corrupt generation.

“Only a real risk tests the reality of belief.” – C.S. Lewis

Weird

- Just think about it, this was a weird command. It would have been a lot easier if God were to tell Noah to move to a high mountain with his family and all these animals and then flood the earth. But instead, he was commanded to take years building a humongous boat on dry land. Think of the insults and ridicule and possible threats he must have received. The very act of building this ship was a statement of judgment and condemnation on a wicked generation.
- I wonder, if this was God’s way of a last chance for this wicked generation, His mercy before judgment. As we see in the book of revelation, God’s mercy always comes before judgement. And Noah’s long obedience of building a boat was an opportunity for the people to turn from their wicked ways.

“There is a fine line between faith and stupidity.”

- God too can call us to be a part of His heart, hands, and feet to act and speak against the horrendous evils and injustices of our world (i.e. domestic violence, human trafficking, abortion, racial discrimination, war, and many more).

Practical Suggestions

- Walk with Jesus daily through prayer and scripture.
- Love lost people by praying for them, caring for their needs, and sharing Jesus with them.
- Set aside money in your monthly budget to give to people in need.
- In a tangible and gracious way, help a co-worker with their work.
- Go on a short-term mission trip.
- Respond to God’s call to serve unreached people groups.

Holy Fear Faith that is obedient, risky, and weird

- Where do we start: “Fixing our eyes on Jesus” to see the unseen.

“Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context? One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one

of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?” – Washington Post

Discussion Questions

1. What image comes to mind for you when you think of faith? Were there any particular images of faith in the sermon that resonated with you?
2. How have you understood previously “holy fear” or “the fear of the Lord”? What was one thing new that you learned about the “fear of the Lord”?
3. How might God be calling you to a faith that is obedient, risky, and weird?