

If You Had Been Noah

Introduction. As kids we imagine we are our “heroes” — for men, it is usually athletes. In my day, we would imagine we were Joe Montana, Walter Payton, or Lawrence Taylor. Tonight we will do something similar with Noah. How would you have reacted in Noah’s surroundings and circumstances? Would the same great observations made about Noah be said about us?

I. Would You Have Been Favored In Eyes Of God?

- A. “Grace” or “favor” meant that he pleased God (Genesis 6:8). God liked what He saw in Noah!
- B. The condition of people in the days of Noah was unbelievably bad (vss. 5-6, 11-12).
 - 1. How did Noah deal with the wickedness (vs. 9; 7:1)?
 - a) “Just” — faithful in dealing with others.
 - b) “Perfect” — consistent in character and conduct.
 - c) “Walked” — Deuteronomy 5:33; Joshua 22:5.
 - 2. Could the same be said of you and I?
 - a) God demands the same of all of His people today (Matthew 28:19-20; Philippians 2:5; Titus 3:2).
 - b) Noah found grace because of his uprightness. Do people see your faithfulness and consistency? Do people hear you lying (Colossians 3:9)? Do they hear you gossiping (Psalm 15:1-3)? Do they see you angry (Ecclesiastes 7:9)? Do they hear inappropriate language (Ephesians 5:4)?

II. Would You Have Hesitated At The Challenge?

- A. It would be no easy task to build a boat that could house 500 railcars (Genesis 6:13-17).
 - 1. It would take a lot of wood to saw, nail, and seal — with no power tools.
 - 2. There was a lot of food to gather as well.
 - 3. Noah did not argue or complain about this Herculean task.
- B. What would your reaction have been?
 - 1. Moses was even tempted to complain about the Israelites (Numbers 11:11-15). Would you argue and complain, or even quit (Proverbs 13:10; Philippians 2:14)?
 - 2. Completing your task of lifelong faithfulness in the face of the wicked who seem to get everything they want is a trial, but one that will be rewarded (Psalm 73:12-22).

III. Would You Have Been Satisfied To Save The Ones God Said Should Be Saved?

- A. There were not many saved (Genesis 6:18; 1 Peter 3:20).
 - 1. Every person Noah preached to had the opportunity to hear and obey (2 Peter 2:5).
 - 2. It was, in the end, their decision (1 Kings 18:21-22).
- B. Would we have been satisfied?
 - 1. There are a lot of people I would like to see in Heaven, and it is tempting to “bend the rules” to try to get them in.
 - 2. However, everyone I want to be in Heaven will have to follow God’s will, not mine (John 12:48; cp. Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30; Romans 10:10; Mark 16:16).

IV. Would You Have Been Satisfied With Lord’s Plan?

- A. Noah did not say, “I think it should be done this way.”
 - 1. Noah meticulously did everything God commanded (Genesis 6:22; 7:5, 16).
 - 2. Would you have been satisfied, recognizing that God’s plan is the best?
- B. Many today would not be satisfied — they would build their own ark in their own way.
 - 1. They think they can improve on what God has arranged.
 - a) They believe they have a more scientific explanation of the Universe.
 - b) They believe they have a better plan for identifying the church.
 - c) They believe they update God’s blueprint of marriage between man and woman.
 - d) They believe they can improve on the Bible’s method of disciplining children.
 - 2. Have we not learned the lessons of Proverbs 20:24 and Jeremiah 10:23 yet? The pattern in the New Testament must mean something, and it must be followed.

Conclusion. What if you had been Noah? Would you have reacted and responded as he did? What is your attitude toward what God has commanded of you? Do you believe God will condemn you if you do not obey Him? He destroyed all but eight people in flood. How many will be saved at judgment?