



Noah and the Three Bears
Genesis 6:5-12
Westport Christian Church
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If I were to ask you about a time in history when there were murders, theft, sexual immorality, corrupt political leaders, and a total decline in moral standards, when would you think I was talking about? . Perhaps you would think about the 2010. But, if I said that there was one man during this time period that was trying to make a difference, who would you think it could be?

Some may think about today and say Billy Graham or perhaps some other well know evangelist. Others may think a little farther back to the great reformation or maybe perhaps when the apostle Paul was ministering. Maybe even Jesus Himself. But the time in history which we are going to take a look at today goes back even father.

Somewhere around 2099 B.C., when a man named Noah was trying to make a difference for God. How many of you have heard of the story of Goldie Locks and the three bears? Well, today I would like to share with you a story, not of Goldie Locks and the three bears, but of Noah and the three bears.

In the book of Genesis chapter 6 we read, Then the LORD saw that the

wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. And the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. And Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. (Genesis 6:5-12)

There are some things from this text that I hope you caught. I hope you caught the part about Noah being a righteous man. Blameless in his time and it states that Noah walked with God.

If we would take the time and study the life of Noah, we would find the three bears. Three bears that I believe we could apply to our lives as well that would bring glory and honor to God. The first bear that we would find in Noah's life is to....

I. Bear Witness.

From our text we read where Noah was surrounded by a mass of godless men and women, it was extremely corrupted. It was so bad that God was ready to destroy everything that He had made. And we think that it is bad now, how bad could it have been? However, our text says that Noah was a righteous man and a witness for God. He was obedient to God and walked by faith. By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Heb 11:7)

In 2 Peter 2:5, we read where Noah was a preacher of righteousness and was spared from the flood. He bore witness to his neighbors of the pending judgment which was to come upon the people and the entire world. Just like Noah we must be the righteous preachers of our time. We must be willing to tell others of Christ and His great love. Speaking the truth to those that we work with or those that we meet. We must be a witness in word and deed. So, many times it is the little things that will make a difference in someone's life that will open the door for you to present the gospel.

One day as a woman was crossing a street at London station, and an old man

stopped her. He said to her, "Excuse me, ma'ma, but I want to thank you." She looked up and exclaimed, "Thank me?" He replied, "Yes'm, I used to be a ticket collector, and whenever you went by you always gave me a cheerful smile and a good morning. I knew that smile must come from inside somewhere. Then one morning I saw a little Bible in your hand. So I bought one, too, and I found Jesus."

You see it is the little things that people notice. It is the little things that make a big difference. A kind word, a card in the mail, a phone call just to say I have been thinking about you or even just a smile can have a been impact on some ones life.

Our actions speak louder than our words. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world."Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. You must always keep in mind that it is through you that people see Jesus! What Jesus are they seeing in your life? "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

The second bear that we see is the fact that Noah had to...

II Bear Ridicule.

Think about this for just a moment. Here we have this man that's around 500 years old building an ark in the middle of dry ground. Now, not only is he building this giant boat, he's talking about rain, a lot of rain! I'm not a meteorologist but I didn't find anywhere in the scriptures up to this point that talked about rain fall, much less the amount of water that it would take to float this boat. Think about that for just a second, here is this old man building something that the people surely had no idea what it was, talking about something called rain that they had never seen, do you think that he wasn't ridiculed?

By the way, he didn't build this over night but for almost 100 years he labored. And it was during this period of time he preached without one conversion. For almost 100 years Noah put up with comments, insults and other forms of ridicule yet he persistently continued his work for the Lord. Has anyone made fun of you or said something to you about your belief? Has anyone told you that this church stuff that you are involved in was stupid? Has anyone called you a name because of your faith in Christ? Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. "Rejoice, and be glad,

for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt 5:10-12)

Have you ever taken time out to think about what that means? First of all, if you are doing what God wants you to do then there is a very good chance you will be made fun of. You may even be attacked for you belief. Now don't get me wrong, but I think because we have the freedoms that we have to express our faith; we often take it for granted. How strong would your faith be if someone challenged you to deny Christ or die? Perhaps you have heard about the church in Russia during the cold war. About 60 people had gathered together to have church. All of a sudden three masked armed men came running into the building carrying machine guns. The first man cried out, "everyone here willing to take a bullet for Jesus stay, the rest of you leave." The people began to run for the door. After all but 20 people had left, the men walk to the door shut it, took off their mask and said, "Ok preacher now we can have church."

What would you have done?

We must be prepared to be ridiculed from the world and those in it. After all they did crucified Christ didn't they!

The third bear...

III. Bear the hope of the unseen.

Noah was told by the Lord to build an ark. He had not even heard of a boat much less an ark. He didn't know why. He didn't know what it was going to look like and he didn't know for sure what a flood was, but he trusted God. In verse 18 God told Noah that He would establish His convent with him. These things were something that Noah had never experience before must less being able to fully comprehend them. Just like Noah, our faith must be based on the hope of things not seen. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. (1 Cor 13:12)

I don't think that we will fully understand why God wants us to do some of things that we will do for Him. Paul writes in 2 Cor 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. Our faith must be built upon Christ and the redeeming work that He did on the cross. We cannot build our faith on some vision or some emotion, but upon the Word of God! Our faith must be built upon the truth found in God's Word. We must be that wise man that built our house upon the Rock. We must study God's Word and hold fast to His teachings. Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do

**not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.**

It is by placing our trust in God, studying His Word that will prepare us for the unseen future. There will be times in your walk with the Lord that things will get pretty cloudy. You may have a hard time determining what path to take, what move to make. The thing that we must do is stay in His word and follow His voice. One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters."

Heb 11:1, 6-7 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Have you been preparing for the unseen?

Conclusion; Just like Noah, we too have these three bears in our lives. We must bear witness, bear ridicule, and bear the hope of unseen. Like Noah we must be faithful in these three bears. Is God calling you? Is He asking you to do something that you have never done before? Perhaps He not asking you to build an ark, but to do something big for Him. Vance Havner once said, "God is faithful, and He expects His people to be faithful. God's Word speaks of faithful servants, faithful in few things, faithful in the least, faithful in the Lord, faithful ministers. And all points up to that one day when He will say, "Well done. Thou good and faithful servant." The only service that counts is faithful service. True faith shows up in faithfulness. God has sent us a helper that will help us to bear witness for Him. To help us to bear ridicule that will come because of our faith in Christ. Perhaps from those we don't know, or maybe even from our own family. With Christ we have the help that we need to bear the unseen in our lives.

Last week you heard me say, "He's alive!" Well, He still is and one day He is coming again. Jesus shares with us that His return will be just like in the days of Noah. The people back then didn't listen when Noah

spoke of the rain that was about to come and today many people are not listening that Jesus is coming again. What about you?

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