

# Lessons from the Shipyard

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## INTRODUCTION

- A. After Noah & his family left the ark, he told all the animals to go forth and multiply.
  - 1. A few days later, he reentered the ark to remove some personal effects, and Noah noticed a couple of animals were still onboard.
  - 2. He said to them, "Did I not tell you to go forth and multiply?" They replied, "Noah, we can't multiply. We're adders."
- B. God did place the animals in Noah's care so that he could care for them.
  - 1. God placed these animals in Noah's care because Noah was exemplary.
  - 2. Tonight, we want to look at Noah's life and see what lessons can be learned.

## WE CAN BE RIGHTEOUS IN A CROOKED GENERATION

- A. When God looked at the earth, he saw a wicked society.
  - 1. God saw that every thought of man's heart was evil, Gen. 6:5.
  - 2. Man was so evil that God was sorry that he had made man and decided to destroy man, Gen. 6:6-7.
  - 3. Illustration about God's blushing, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, #5706.
- B. Even though he lived in a wicked society, Noah was an upright man, Gen. 6:8-9; 7:1.
  - 1. Noah was a just and perfect man--he had dedicated himself to doing right.
  - 2. Noah walked with God.
    - a. Noah's life was closely in line with God; he honored God by the way he lived.
    - b. Even though the society was godless, Noah placed God first in his life.
- C. We must live differently than this world.
  - 1. "Friendship with the world is enmity with God" (Js. 4:4).
  - 2. We are to come out from the world (2 Cor. 6:17).
  - 3. Illustration about Susan B. Anthony Dollar, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching, 406.
- D. Noah gives us the encouragement that we can live differently than the world.
  - 1. We live in a wicked society--Lying is acceptable, alcohol is common, sexual immorality is acceptable, etc.
  - 2. We can live differently.

## OBEDIENCE IS IMPORTANT

- A. Throughout the flood narrative, God gave Noah instructions.
  - 1. God told Noah concerning how to build the ark, the animals to bring into the ark, and the food to be brought onto the ark, Gen. 6:14-21.
  - 2. God told Noah to bring seven clean animals and two unclean animals unto the ark, Gen. 7:2-4.
- B. Throughout this narrative we read that Noah did according to what God had commanded him, Gen. 7:5, 9.
  - 1. We cannot pretend that God would have continued to bless Noah had Noah refused to obey.
  - 2. Precisely because Noah was willing to obey, God blessed him.
- C. God still expects his servants to be obedient.
  - 1. Jesus is the source of eternal life to "all who obey him" (Heb. 5:9).
  - 2. Only those who do God's will will enter heaven (Mt. 7:21).
- D. Illustration about Australia's planting grains, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, #3924.

## **WE CAN SAVE OUR FAMILIES, Gen 7:7**

- A. When the flood came upon the earth, Noah and his wife, and his sons and daughters-in-law entered the ark.
  - 1. Noah was a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet. 2:5).
  - 2. Yet, the only ones he saved were those of his home.
- B. We often neglect to save those in our own home.
  - 1. Dad is too busy with work, and coaching little league.
  - 2. Mom is too busy teaching how to cook, iron, and clean.
  - 3. The Bible is simply left out of instruction.
- C. Parents must constantly look for opportunities to teach the Bible.
  - 1. Parents must find the time to teach (Dt. 6:6-7).
  - 2. Fathers must “bring [their children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).
  - 3. Timothy’s faith first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5).
- D. Grandparents must help, too.
  - 1. Grandparents have great impact over grandchildren.
  - 2. Grandparents must take opportunities to teach and set right examples.
- E. If we don’t train our families, who will?
- F. Illustration about reasons for prisoners, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, #4169.

## **WE NEED TO BE THANKFUL, Gen 8:20-22.**

- A. After the flood, Noah sacrificed burnt offerings of the clean animals.
  - 1. God had been so good to Noah—telling him of the coming flood, giving him instructions for building the ark, and watching over him during the flood.
  - 2. In these sacrifices, Noah showed his thankfulness and his praise to God.
- B. We, too, need to show thankfulness to God.
  - 1. God had blessed us beyond measure.
    - a. He sent his only Son to die for our sins.
    - b. He continues to bestow spiritual blessings upon us without number.
  - 2. Our worship needs to show our thankfulness.
    - a. Whatever we do, we are to be giving thanks to God through Christ (Col. 3:17).
    - b. In everything, we are to give thanks (1 Th. 5:18).
- C. Because God had watched over Noah, Noah showed God gratitude.
  - 1. Because God has done so much for us, we, too, need to show God gratitude.
  - 2. Are you showing that gratitude?

## **ALCOHOL CAUSES SHAME**

- A. Noah became drunk and lay naked in his tent, Gen 9:20-21.
  - 1. People just do not lie around naked; that’s shameful.
  - 2. Yet, Noah was drunk and knew no shame.
- B. When we become drunk, drunkenness causes us shame as well.
  - 1. Those led away by wine are not wise (Prov. 20:1).
  - 2. Those who drink have woe (Prov. 23:29-35).
- C. We need to stay completely away from alcohol and encourage our families to do the same.
  - 1. One drink has an effect upon our bodies.
  - 2. One drink could lead us down the road to becoming alcoholics.

## **WE CAN’T REACH EVERYONE**

- A. Noah did not reach everyone to whom he preached.
  - 1. Noah is described as a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet. 2:5).
  - 2. Yet, he only saved his wife, his children, and his daughters-in-law.
- B. We cannot expect everyone to whom we speak to obey.

1. In the parable of the sower, Jesus described four soils and only one soil produced fruit (Mt. 13:18-23).
2. When the rich young ruler came to Jesus, he went away sorrowful (Mt. 19:16-22).
  - a. He came to Jesus and wanted to know what to do to inherit eternal life.
  - b. When Jesus told him to sell what he had and give to the poor, he left.
  - c. Even Jesus himself could not reach everyone.
- C. If Jesus couldn't reach everyone, why do we believe that we must convert everyone?

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. Because of Noah's faith he "became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Heb. 11:7).
- B. If we follow his example, we will become heirs of eternal life. Are you an heir?