

The Fall Part 6

The Mercy of God

Genesis 6:9-22, Hebrews 11:7, (Genesis 5-9 various)

Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:7

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

We are in a series on The Fall of humanity from the grace of God. Adam and Eve's sin of rebellion put in motion a never ending curse of sin upon everything; the earth, the animals, the plants, and of course us. And in our sin we experience deep shame, and carry the burden of a never ending battle to rule over our sinful desires. Cain could not rule over them. Lamech could not rule over them. Humanity, for 1500 years, from the disobedience of Adam to the days of Noah, could not rule over sin.

Just as Don mentioned last week, humanity had completely turned its back on its creator and all of its ways were wicked. Let's pick up the narrative in **Genesis 6:11-12**. The word God uses here is corrupt. Everything that God had made good, was now corrupted by the curse and by the wickedness of mankind. Violence, murder, selfishness, sexual debauchery... everywhere you looked all you could see is the rebellion of humanity against their creator God.

And so God decided to do something that's completely shocking. He decided to destroy humanity and start over. Look at **Genesis 6:13 & 17**. Could you blame him? For a thousand years, God's creation had only disobeyed – had only rebelled against his will. They did not love him, nor did they yearn for him. They had all but forgotten about him. And of course, God is holy and his ways are beyond our ways, but everyone has a boiling point, and God had clearly come to the end of what he could stand; enough was enough. Or was it.

Yes, as Don showed us last week, the wickedness of humanity knows no end. We live to sin. We will create new sins if there are not enough sins for us to sin. We get it!

But that's not the end of the story. Remember **Genesis 3:15**. There will be enmity between humanity and Satan. Our toil will be war with sin. For a time the serpent will bruise our heel. But eventually through the Messiah, Satan's head, and sin with it, will be crushed. Remember **Romans 6:23**. The wages of sin is death, and shame, and eternal torment in the fires of hell. But the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Do you get it. Do you see it? God didn't give up on us. God saved us. The story of creation and the fall never ends with our sin. The story always ends with the mercy of God!

This morning I want us to see the vast mercy of God in the midst

*of one of the world's greatest tragedies. I want you to be awakened to the fact that amidst all of the spiritual death surrounding us all the time, God has not given up, but he has kept for himself a remnant of the faithful who will be protected in his goodness and mercy. **Though we all deserve to be destroyed in the flood of our sin, God, in his great mercy, still saves those who enter into his protection through faith.***

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is that... **God grants His mercy toward sinners when they remain faithful to Him.** Look again at **verse 9**. In the whole earth, God could only find favor in one man. It is estimated that at the time of the flood there were 1 to 4 billion people on the earth. This estimate varies of course based upon the posited birth rate and lifespan of the pre-flood population. We know of course that people lived longer then and had more children. But even if we take the low number to be 1 billion people... people who are only 1500 years removed from the Garden of Eden... people who know the stories of the Lord. Remember at the end of chapter **4:26** people began to call upon the Lord in worship. People who are blessed with the long life and love of God. Only 1 person could be found among all of them who was faithful to God. Who still called upon the name of the Lord. Thats insane.

And of course the reasons for this could be many. They didn't have the Spirit in their souls. They didn't have the revelation of the scriptures. Etc... But still.. just one man was righteous. It just goes to show you that... **it takes someone special to do the right thing when everyone else is doing wrong.** Notice what God says about Noah that made him stand out. First, Noah was named because his father thought he would bring the people relief from their work and their painful toil. Look at **5:29**. This means a few things. First, Noah's father Lamech, who was a murderer, knew of the story of the garden and the curse of sin. And he wanted relief from it. He knew of the prophecy that one day a messiah was coming who would set men free from the curse. He wanted that messiah to be Noah. Noah was raised by a murderer to be a savior of sorts. Though his father was not faithful, he raised his son to be.

Secondly, Noah found favor with God in **6:8**. Meaning, as God was scouring the wickedness of the world, Noah caught his attention as different. Wouldn't it be something if as God were looking out over Pittsylvania county, looking to find someone righteous among the wicked... he noticed you? Third, Now was righteous; meaning that he did what was right according to the Lord. Now this was before the Mosaic law, but there were a few "rules" you could say men knew as good or bad. They knew they shouldn't steal, or take what didn't belong to them, because of the story of the tree of good and evil. They knew they shouldn't kill, because of the story of Cain and Able. They knew that they shouldn't commit adultery because of what God had

told Adam and Eve about becoming one flesh. And they knew they shouldn't worship anyone or anything other than God himself because of how God reacted when they listened to the serpent. And even with these few rules, they still couldn't live without breaking them all and more. But not Noah. Did what was right. Noah lived according to the rules of God, passed down to him from his father, his grandfather, and his great grandfather who was of note; Enoch. Look real quick at **5:21-24**. Enoch walked with God and then he was not because God took him. Enoch was so special and so righteous that God gave him a special gift. He did not see death. Enoch was righteous and so was Noah.

Fourth, Noah was blameless. Meaning not only did he do what was right. He didn't do anything that was wrong. No one could come up with a reason to be mad at Noah, or sue Noah, or blame Noah of wrong doing. Noah was an example to everyone of what a good man looked like. Fifth, Noah walked with God. Interesting... because we just saw that same phrase with his great grandfather Enoch. Noah could very well have been granted the special gift of bypassing death as well, but God had a different gift in store for Noah. Noah was not to be the messiah. Noah was to be the new Adam. The thing I want you to notice here is that when everyone else had abandoned God and His will, Noah stood faithful to Him. God will surely show his mercy to those who remain faithful to Him! **Though we all deserve to be destroyed in the flood of our sin, God, in his great mercy, still saves those who enter into his protection through faith.**

The second thing we need to see here is that... **God grants mercy to sinners when they reverently fear Him.** The next thing we notice here is that God tells Noah to build a giant box to hold his family and a lot of animals in during a global flood. This is insane for a more than a couple of reasons. First, it is agreed upon by many theologians that at this point in history it had never rained. There were lakes and streams and rivers. There was a canopy of water above the Earth giving it a high humidity. And according to **Genesis 2:5-6**, God watered the Earth with a heavy mist. But no rain. Noah had no idea what God meant when he said it was going to rain and flood the earth. Nor would anyone else.

Secondly, this boat would be the biggest constructed boat ever at the time and wouldn't have been rivaled in size until the making of the Titanic. Third, this boat was a zoo. Literally! It was to house 2 of every animal. We think God's insane if he asks us to give 10 percent to the offering. God asked Noah to build a giant floating zoo to save creation from a giant flood... and it had never even rained before. And what was Noah's response. Look at **verse 22** again. He did it all without question. He was fully obedient. **Hebrews 11:7** gives us some additional

information. It wasn't just that Noah trusted God fully, but he feared him wholly. He had a reverent fear of God; meaning he understood his holiness and greatness and would never even think about disobeying him. **A reverent fear is when you hear from God, understand the situation, and obey fully because you recognize that if you make one mistake it could ruin the whole thing.** And you don't want to be that mistake. So when God says do this or that... you do it without question as if the whole world depends on it. You walk the line. Noah walked the line with God. Do you? God will surely show mercy to those who through faith in him, fear him. **Though we all deserve to be destroyed in the flood of our sin, God, in his great mercy, still saves those who enter into his protection through faith.**

Lastly, we need to see that... **God grants his mercy to sinners when they place their faith in him.** Look at chapter **7:11-16**. They entered into the Ark. They didn't know that the rain was coming... but they believed what God had said. They didn't know that people were going to die... but they believed what God had said. How do we know they believed? Because their actions showed us they believed. They built the ark and they entered the ark. **Hebrews 11:7** tells us it was by faith! And notice that it was God who shut the Ark. Look at **8:1-3**. After every living thing that was outside of the Ark had died, God remembered Noah. And he made the waters recede. Look at **8:15-19**. God brought them safely out of the ark to be fruitful and replenish the earth again. Look at **9:8-15**. God makes a covenant with Noah to never flood the earth again. God's mercy is clearly for the faithful. **Though we all deserve to be destroyed in the flood of our sin, God, in his great mercy, still saves those who enter into his protection through faith.**

Application

And so I want you to understand something here. God is merciful. He is so much more merciful than we could ever know. His mercy is greater than his wrath. His mercy is greater than our wickedness. His mercy is new everyday for those of who are weak and sinful. When we come to him in righteous faithfulness. When we come to him with reverent fear. When we come to him in faith... he gives us his mercy. But you also must understand something here... our faithfulness, our reverent fear, and our faith doesn't earn us favor with God. But Noah found favor with God. I don't understand. What do you mean we can't earn favor with God? What I mean is this, God chooses us, we don't choose him. We are so wicked that our sinful nature would never allow us to seek after God. So this means that the only way Noah could remain righteous and faithful is if God gave him the ability to do so. God chose and favored Noah to be a righteous man. Just as God chose and favored Mary to the mother of Jesus. Just as he chooses and

favours any of us to be born again as his children in the faith. Let us look one more time at **Hebrews 11:7**. Through Noah's faith and obedience he became an heir of righteousness that comes by faith. He wasn't righteous because he was righteous... he was righteous because he was given the gift of righteousness through his faith.

Conclusion

And this is the same for all of us. Yes, we are wicked sinners and we cannot change that. It is our burden to carry. We will never be righteous in and of ourselves. But... we can be faithful. We can choose to place our faith in God. Noah placed his faith in God and God saved him in the ark. We can place our faith in God and God will save us in his son, Jesus Christ. You see... **Jesus Christ is the Ark of humanity**. If we will place our faith in Him, enter into his lordship, then God will close us inside him and we will forever be saved. Jesus will then weather the storm of our sin for us until one day God makes the waters of sin recede and brings us into the harbor of heaven. This is God's mercy. **God's mercy is salvation by faith in Jesus Christ**. Will you place your faith in Him today? **Though we all deserve to be destroyed in the flood of our sin, God, in his great mercy, still saves those who enter into his protection through faith.**