



Sermon Series: Risk-Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith

To be used with Session One: Noah: A Faith That Pleases God

Sermon Title Possibilities: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

Scripture: Genesis 6:5-9,17-22; 8:20-22

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Noah: A Faith That Pleases God,” this sermon emphasizes that living by faith begins with a righteous relationship with God. Genesis 15:6 says that “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” Therefore, righteousness is not something we earn; righteousness is accounted to us because of our faith in God. However, the one who is credited righteousness because of their faith is the one who strives to live righteously in light of their faith. The prophet Habakkuk declares, “the righteous one will live by his faith” (Heb. 2:4). A faith that is unseen is no faith at all.

Introduction: Jennifer Benson Schuldts tells how, fresh out of college, a technology firm hired her. Although she couldn’t write a line of computer code, she learned that the company did not place as high a value on work experience as it did personal qualities. The company believed that new workers could be taught the necessary skills for the position if they were the kind of people the company valued (ourdailybreadministries.ca).

God called Noah fresh off the farm (Gen. 9:20). He had no experience in carpentry. But “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries.” It reminds us that God values character over qualifications. Noah was the kind of person that God could trust and teach to build an ark, because in the midst of widespread wickedness, Noah walked faithfully with God. Surrounded by a corrupt and fallen world, do you have a heart for God where He can teach and trust you to “walk by faith and not be sight” (2 Cor. 5:7)?

1. Genesis 6:5-9. We walk in righteousness.

The Scriptures declares, “there is no one righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10), because “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Righteousness has always been accounted to the believer through faith in God (Gen. 15:6). “By faith he [Noah] condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” (Heb. 11:7). Before the Bible mentions any of Noah’s works (Gen. 6:14-16, 19-22) it mentions Noah’s walk (Gen. 6:9). So, Noah’s righteousness was not earned by works, it was seen in his works.

When the Scriptures say that Noah was blameless, it doesn’t mean he was unblemished (Gen. 9:20-22). Blameless does not mean perfect or striving after perfection. Blameless means a person of moral integrity who sincerely seeks to please God. However, “without

faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who [sincerely] seek Him” (Heb. 11:6). So that righteousness and blamelessness are anchored in faith in God.

Now, the righteousness of God is credited to us through faith in Jesus (Romans 3:22). “He made the one who did not know sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). The same righteousness that God has credited to us is the same righteousness that God expects to see from us.

2. Genesis 6:17-22. We act in obedience.

It is possible that it had not rained upon the earth until the time of Noah. Genesis 2:5-6 states that God had not allowed it to rain upon the earth, but a mist came up from the earth and watered all the ground. There is recorded in the Scriptures, human beings’ building cities, creating instruments, and fashioning tools (Gen. 4:20-22), but there is no record of humans building boats or ships before Noah’s time. So, it’s possible that God commands Noah to build something that no one has seen before to prepare for something that no one has witnessed before. “By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family” (Heb. 11:7). Based on a command from God, Noah believed he would see what had never been seen, and therefore, he built what had never been built. By faith, Noah obeyed, motivated by both godly fear and love for God. “For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands...this is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith” (1 John 5:3-4). Noah was able to overcome a worldwide catastrophe because of his faith, reverence, love, and obedience to God. And so can we. “Everyone who has been born of God conquers the world... who is the one who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:4-5).

3. Genesis 8:20-22. We worship in gratitude.

No matter how severe the storms we face in life, no matter how overwhelming the floodwaters, no matter how long it takes, God will keep his promises (Gen. 6:18). In response to God delivering on His promise, Noah worshipped God (Gen. 8:20). The only reasonable response to a God who delivers on His promises is worship. “If the Lord had not been on our side...then the water would have engulfed us; the torrent would have swept over us; the raging water would have swept over us. Blessed be the Lord” (Psalm 124:1, 4-6). In response to our worship, God responds with mercy, despite our hearts being bent toward sin (Gen. 8:21). Not only does he respond with mercy, but He shows more grace and extends more promises (Gen. 8:22). The apostle Paul stated that “where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more” (Romans 5:20). Paul then asks and answers the questions. “What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not... do not offer any parts of it [your body] to sin as weapons for

unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness” (Romans 6:1, 13), because as Romans 12:1 declares, “this is your true act of worship.”

Conclusion:

“The Walk of Faith” is a platform of laminated glass at the top of a 385-foot tower in Blackpool, England, constructed to give people the illusion of walking on air. A photo captured a woman at the edge of the “invisible” walkway. She had been told the platform was safe. Yet, looking down, her fists were clenched, as she tried to summon the courage to take a step of faith.

Fists clenched, trying to summon courage, yet still afraid to take a step of faith is how many of us face the challenging circumstances of life. But our faith is not an illusion. Our faith is in a God who is faithful. No matter how challenging and scary, we have to trust, not a platform constructed of laminated glass, but a trust built on faith in an Almighty God. Trust God. Look to him. Take that first step of faith, and He will direct your path.

Author Bio

Dr. Jerome F. Coleman is the lead pastor at the First Baptist Church of Crestmont, Willow Grove, PA., and current Vice-President of the National African American Fellowship (NAAF). He has an earned doctorate in Pastoral Leadership from Carolina University. He is also the grateful husband of Kimberly to whom he has been married 28 years.