



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Pass the Promise Series, Lesson 9

Lesson Title: Noah Obeys God

Take Home Point: Go against the flow – stand for God.

Warm-Up:

Most of us know the accounts of how Christians were cruelly killed in the Coliseum in Rome by fire, starving beasts, or gladiators. They died there because they went against the flow of Roman thought. But did you know the Coliseum persecution killings were also stopped by one man going against the flow? One day as the “games” were underway, a man named Telemachus jumped from the stands and cried out for Caesar to stop it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. So shocked was everyone that all paused and turned to see what Caesar would do. Caesar gestured “thumbs down”, and a gladiator killed Telemachus on the spot. Telemachus died, but from that day on, the “sport” murder of Christians in the Coliseum stopped.

Read: Genesis chapters 6-9

Observation (What happened?):

What words does the writer use to describe the people and their times?

What word is used to describe how Noah stood out?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What broke the heart of God (verse 6)? What does this tell you about God's character?

What promise was God passing to Noah? (Go back to Genesis 3:15 for a reminder.)

Insight:

Many Bible scholars believe the world did not experience rain prior to the time of the Great Flood. Imagine the questioning and ridicule Noah must have endured. He might have wanted God to explain what rain was, and what a flood was! Likely God did not tell Noah these things, and likely Noah did not ask. Hebrews 11:7 certainly indicates such was the case. But Noah obeyed anyway. Hebrews 11 is filled with examples of people who did what God said without knowing the end results. Sometimes the result was happiness in this life, sometimes not. But that didn't change their trust in God, or the consequences, or especially God's plan. In the same way, we can trust him to know and do what is perfectly right for us in our obedience, even in this world of sin.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one area in your life where you are tempted to give in, or are giving in, to peer pressure against God's ways – at work, in your social circle, perhaps even in your family.

- Pray for God's strength to resist and stand for him with integrity.
- Memorize Psalm 27:1 to remember God is with you to make you strong.