

Impact of One Missions

Scripture is filled with people who ask, who am I?

Who am I that I should make a difference in this world?

Who am I, God, that You would be able to use me?

Isaiah proclaimed himself to be a man of unclean lips.

Samuel was just a boy when God called him.

David was the youngest brother when God directed Samuel to anoint him king.

Moses did not feel qualified to lead Israel and argued with God about it.

Paul was the chief of sinners when God called him.

Mary, who provided the virgin birth of Jesus, was a simple handmaid.

Joseph who protected and raised Jesus - a carpenter!

The disciples - fishermen!

Jeremiah - just a youth who didn't speak well!

Amos - a shepherd!

And Noah, who was he?

Noah was not a man of power or influence.

Compare him to his generation.

Noah's generation was exceedingly wicked.

It was overwhelmingly wicked.

Wickedness was great in the earth.

That wickedness was manifested through the people that lived on the earth.

Their every intent and desire was evil.

Noah was not one of the masses of people caught in wickedness.

Verse 9 tells us that Noah was a righteous man.

He is also described as blameless in his generation.

Noah did not fit in with everyone else living at that time.

He was weird and different.

He did not have the wealth gained from pillaging and abuse.

He lived an honest and upright life.

He lived a life of integrity.

In a wicked world Noah would have no influence at all.

He was probably chastised and ridiculed.

Noah's generation was also filled with mighty men.

Verse 4 says they were mighty men and men of renown.

Noah was definitely not one of those mighty men.

Noah was not a person of note.

People did not look at Noah and say "Wow, look at his might."

Kids did not say, "When I grow up I want to be like Noah."

Unfortunately those kids would not have a chance to grow up.

Noah was no superhero of the day.

I don't exactly understand the activity of verses 1-4.

But the sons of God were definitely not supernatural beings or angels.

They were simply people who were caught up in wickedness and lust.

They were caught in the quest of beauty and strength.

The strong mated themselves with that which would enhance their power.

Marriage as God intended it was lost to lust.

And it created a generation of powerful people.

They were people whose reputation preceded them.

They were renowned.

But how do we know that Noah was not also like that?

We know where Noah came from.

Chapter 5 gives us the generations of Noah.

His ancestors are named.

They are named right back to Adam.

Adam who gave birth to Seth.

Three of Adam's and Eve's children are named.

Cain was the firstborn, Abel was born second.

Cain killed Abel.

Cain was banished then Seth was born.

Cain became a fugitive but his family prospered.

Cain's descendants pursued prosperity, murder and wickedness.

Chapter 4 of Genesis identifies the first five generations after Cain.

But then no more generations are named.

Cain's descendents started taking multiple wives.

They became musicians, and forgers of metal.

Cain's generations were the sons of God referred to in Genesis 6.

They pursued sinful living with a vengeance.

But Seth, the third child named of Adam and Eve, also had a son.

His name was Enosh, and this is what was said of his day.

"At that time men began to call upon the name of the Lord." (Genesis 4:26)

Seth's descendants desired fellowship with God.

They pursued righteousness.

They walked with God.

Compare the fifth generation of Seth with the fifth generation of Cain.

Five generations later Seth's family was serving God.

"Enoch walked with God after the birth of Methuselah 300 years," (Genesis 5:22)

Enoch walked with God 300 and God took him.

Five generations after Cain was Lamech.

Lamech confessed to his wives he killed a man (Genesis 4:23).

The consequence of Lamech's action would be 70 times worse than Cain's.

Noah came through Seth, the family that pursued righteousness.

Noah was unlike anyone else in the world.

Talk about being in the minority.

Talk about being powerless.

Talk about being the underdog.

Noah was the least liked person alive.

No one respected Noah.

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:8)

And this is where we find, not the power of one but the impact of one.

We do not make any positive difference in our own power.

Jesus closed the prayer He taught the disciples.

"For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever."

Anything in us that resembles power is not from us.

Left to myself, I can only echo Paul - I can do nothing.

But in Christ I can do all things.

Paul says to the Church in Corinth:

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

"yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." (1 Corinthians 8:6)

"And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself." (Ephesians 1:23)

"But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself." (Philippians 3:20-21)

It was Noah's fellowship with God that made a huge impact on the world.

The impact of one!

But it was the impact of one empowered by God.

I have thought about the word IMPACT over the past several weeks.

During the sleepless nights of vacation the word kept coming to me.

What does it mean to make an impact on something?

You type impact into google and lots of words attach themselves to it.

Impact body art, wrestling, boxing, nutrition, autos, magazine, factor.

There is impact assessment, assets, assurance, analysis, weapons, wrenches.

Impact is defined as "striking together; violent contact, the force of a collision; shock; the power of an event or idea to produce changes.

God wants you to make an impact on your world.

He wants you to make an impact on your classmates, your community, your sport team, your co-workers, your cashier or waitress, your teacher or boss.

Think of IMPACT in this way:

I-Important; M-Meaningful; P-Personal; A-Action; C-Compassionate; T-Transparent

If I am going to impact my world for God I need to have those qualities.

Look at Noah again.

The impact of one.

What was Noah's impact?

Through Noah God saved all life.

God instructed Noah to build an ark.

It was a huge boat with three decks.

On that boat was room for every righteous person alive.

Every kind of animal was taken into the boat.

Only what was in the ark survived the flood that God sent.

I want us to think of Noah's actions that impacted the world so dramatically.

If it were not for Noah we wouldn't be here.

That is how far reaching his impact has been.

What Noah did was IMPORTANT.

It was a matter of life and death.

Have you ever considered your life might have that kind of impact?

You should, when your faith is in Jesus.

What Noah did was IMMEDIATE.

God told Noah the flood waters were going to come.

Everything was going to die.

Noah did not procrastinate.

He started building the ark immediately.

He was ready for the seven day warning bell (Genesis 7:4).

And what Noah did was INTENTIONAL

I was reminded while on vacation of the difference between intent and intentional.

It is the difference between good intentions and doing.

To be intent is to have a plan.

It means you have a purpose or to have a mindset about something.

It means to be sincere about something.

An intention is to have a goal.

Noah had a goal to build the ark.

But if that is all he had, the ark would only be an idea.

The path to nowhere is paved with good intentions.

But to be intentional is to put action to the plan.

Intentional is to do the thing, to reach the goal.

Noah would never have made an impact if he did not see building the ark was IMPORTANT, IMMEDIATE, and INTENTIONAL.

These three words are wrapped up in verse 22.

"Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

God wants to impact the world through you.

Is there anything stifling your impact today?

It begins with your relationship with God.

God still seeks out those who are righteous to impact the world He created.
He still wants to save the world.

The redemption of this world has always been God's desire.

Don't worry, He will not ask you to build a boat.

He already promised He wouldn't destroy the world that way again.

But He might ask you to build a bridge to someone else's life.

God sent His Son Jesus as proof of another plan of salvation.

And now, through Jesus, He calls you and me to impact our world.

One person, you, in God's hands can impact a world.

"To the world you are only one person, but to one person you can be the world."

(An unknown philosopher)

Whose world can you turn right side up through Jesus?

Whose world can I turn right side up through Jesus?

"It's true I am only one but I am one. And the fact that I cannot do everything will not prevent me from doing all that I can do." (Edward Everett Hale)

In the body of Christ there is no such thing as "only one".

Closing Song - The Greatness of Our God