

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

August 9, 2024 – Hunger for the Supernatural of God – Erlinda Cruz

The Miracle of Obedience to Construct an Ark

In Genesis chapter 6, God didn't just tell Noah to build a boat; rather, God gave specific instructions on how the boat was to be built:

“Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.”

Genesis 6:14-16 HCSB

It seems odd that God would give Noah such specific instructions. Would it have really made a difference if the boat had been 451 feet long or if the sides were finished to within 17 inches of the roof? Certainly, the ark had to meet a certain function; God was preparing to it to hold a specific number of animals along with Noah and his family, but surely He could have worked that miracle even if the boat's dimensions were a little off, right? It seems those specific instructions had more to do with Noah than with the ark.

Noah is described as being righteous, blameless, and walking with God (Genesis 6:9); not perfect, not sinless, but *blameless*. Of all the people on the earth, Noah was the one guy who took his walk with God seriously. In fact, he took his walk with God so seriously that he began building a boat decades before it started raining – that's radical obedience! Personally, I prefer to see evidence of God working in my life before I move! I want to know I'm not making a mistake. If God wants me to build a boat I demand at least some sprinkles of rain. But not Noah... Noah just went to work.

I can't help but imagine the impact Noah's obedience must of had on his three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Not only did they see their father go about building a boat, but they saw him agonizing over the exact dimensions and smallest of details, *“Do it over son, that board is an inch too long! It's got to meet God's instructions exactly!”*

I believe I'm starting to figure out why God spared Noah and his family.

God gave Noah specific instructions on how to build a boat and Noah obeyed. Noah's obedience was a direct result from, and evidence of, his close walk with God. God has left us with specific instructions as well. His Word spells out how we should be living our life. His Word specifically tells us what a life of repentance looks like and how it should impact believers.

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Yet, we don't follow Noah's example. Instead, we justify our disobedience. When we do find someone who takes obedience seriously we write them off as a fanatic and accuse them of legalism!

Noah was a fanatic and everyone around him surely thought he was a legalist. I can hear them now, "Come on Noah, did God literally mean the boat needed to be 450 feet long?" And I can hear Noah's response, "Yeah. He did. And I'm going to *obey*."

In his obedience, Noah showed his family and the whole, defiant world that he took his relationship with God seriously. He showed them that he didn't just believe in word, but also in deed. James told us to "prove ourselves doers of the word and not just hearers" (James 1:22). Noah was a doer... and too often today, we're just hearers.

God has given us specific instructions in His Word. If we want to get to heaven, it must be through His Son (John 14:6). We must repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near (Matthew 3:2, 4:17). His Word goes to great lengths to show us what a life of repentance looks like and how our lives should be shaped in response to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We all would do well to take His Word seriously. When we make changes in our lives because of the instructions we find in God's Word, we are showing the world that we truly believe in the God of the Bible. They may think we're fanatics or legalists, but by golly they at least know we're serious.

- From Clark Goble, <https://clarkdgoblewriter.wordpress.com/2015/09/28/lessons-from-genesis-noahs-obedience-and-gods-instructions/>

How about you? Have you considered your obedience?

Is your obedience so serious that you would take care to start working on it right away?

Many of your obedience is conditional, not explicit, why?