**Faith to Prepare**

Sunday School Lesson 5

*Faith in Action*

Hebrews 11:7

6/2/2024

**Introduction & Recap:** Last week, we looked at how our faith prompts us to go. Our example for this was Abraham and his willingness to leave home and to allow the Lord to lead him to a better country. During the lesson, we observed five truths about how our faith helps us to go. First, we observed that we can go wherever the Lord leads because we trust His perspective. The analogy given was of a race car driver and his spotter. We ought to trust the Lord as our spotter. He sits up on His throne in Heaven, and He sees what is ahead of us. He knows everything going on around us. Consequently, He is best positioned to lead us where we need to go. Second, we can go wherever the Lord leads because we trust His presence. We can have confidence as believers that the Lord will go with us wherever He leads us. He promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us. If He leads us into lowly valleys, He is there with us. If He leads us into a big storm, He is there with us. If He leads us to the wilderness, He is there with us. Third, we can go wherever the Lord leads because we trust His purpose and plan. We know that God has a purpose for everything that He does, and He certainly has a plan. Christians should reject the idea of coincidence when it comes to things that happen in this life and embrace the fact that God is in control. All things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to HIS purpose. Fourth, we can go wherever the Lord leads because we trust His priorities. He is going to lead us to what is important according to His will. This means that He may lead us into difficulty for the sake of carrying out His will. The early church certainly experienced this. Finally, we observed that we can go wherever the Lord leads because we trust His prophecy. If God says it will happen, we can trust that it will. In today’s lesson, we are going to be looking at how faith helps us to prepare with Noah and the ark as our example of Godly preparation.

1. **WE CAN PREPARE FOR THINGS NOT YET SEEN BECAUSE WE TRUST THE LORD.**

* *Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Luke 10:24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.* As Christians, we can trust the Lord to prepare for that which we have not seen because we trust Him. This picks up well from where we left off last week in going where the Lord sends because we trust His prophecy. Noah was instructed to prepare an ark for something that was coming that he could not presently see. There were no visible signs of an impending flood. In fact, many believers agree that there likely had not even been rain upon the earth at that point. This is based off of the mention of no rain in Genesis 2:5. If this was the case, then it is even more extraordinary that Noah was willing to prepare an ark for the saving of the animals and his family. Sadly, there are Christians who do not take the time to prepare for things that God commands them to because they do not see any evidence of its impending arrival. The Jews were not prepared for the Messiah. Are Christians prepared for His return? Are we looking to the eastern sky?

1. **WE CAN PREPARE BECAUSE OUR TRUST IN THE LORD MOVES US TO FEAR.**

* *Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Exodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. Genesis 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. 16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.* Noah prepared an ark because his trust in the Lord caused him to fear what the Lord had shown him was coming. The rest of the world mocked Noah and his ark. They had no fear for the Lord or for a great flood. It likely seemed like foolishness to them. We also see the fear of the midwives who helped to spare the children of Israel when they were under attack in Egypt. They feared the Lord, so they prepared themselves to do what needed to be done. Lot is an example of someone who was slow to fear the Lord. The angels of the Lord grabbed him and brought him out of Sodom because of his lingering. This hesitation may have influenced his wife’s desire to look back.

1. **WE CAN PREPARE WHEN OTHERS REMAIN UNPREPARED BECAUSE WE TRUST THE LORD.**

* *Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Genesis 7:23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.* Sometimes, believers struggle to prepare themselves for the Lord’s work or for the Lord’s return because they see that they are the only one’s getting ready. There is a natural pressure that is created when everyone else doesn’t seem to care. It can make us feel like what we are doing doesn’t matter. Our trust in the Lord and His Word should help us overcome this pressure. Whether the whole world mocks His return or not, it shouldn’t change our preparedness. Whether the whole world mocks the way Christians raise their children, it shouldn’t change our preparedness in helping them spiritually be ready to confront this world as adults. Even if fellow believers seem ill-prepared, we must trust the Lord. A foolish servant procrastinates in doing the work that the Master has called us to perform in this world.

1. **WE CAN PREPARE FOR DIFFICULT EVENTS BECAUSE WE TRUST THE LORD.**

* *John 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. 19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. Matthew 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.* It is challenging to prepare for difficult times. It is much more exciting to prepare for wonderful and enjoyable times. While Noah was going to be delivered from the flood, it was not going to be an especially enjoyable experience. He would spend a significant amount of time on the ark with the various animals of the world. It’s likely he at least heard some of the screams and cries from mankind outside of the ark. It was going to be a very dark and lonely time on the earth for Noah. Yet, the Lord prepared him for it. The Lord has prepared us as His disciples for the trouble coming in this world. He also has prepared us for individual trouble like He prepared Peter. While Peter surely did not want to hear about his own death, he was able to be more prepared for it because he trusted what the Lord told him was true.

1. **WE CAN PREPARE FOR A WONDERFUL WORK BECAUSE WE TRUST THE LORD.**

* *1 Chronicles 22:5 And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death. Joshua 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it. Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* King David was very excited about the temple that was going to be built in the days of his son Solomon. He trusted the Lord in His promise to allow Solomon to build Him a temple. As a result, David took time to make abundant preparations before his death. The same is the case with Joshua. He believed the Lord that they were going to go into the Promised Land. As a result, he called the children of Israel to get prepared to go into the land. We also see John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord. He was excited to be the forerunner for Jesus’ coming. Likewise, we are to be prepared for the sharing of the Gospel. We ought to trust the Lord that He will open doors to share the Gospel.