

# CAN GOD USE US

Luke 6:46 - 49

## INTRO

- Holy Spirit included each saint in Hebrews Chapter 11 to teach us a different aspect of a ***faith which pleases God***
  - **Able** helped us discover a worship with pleases God
  - **Enoch** illustrated how to walk with God ... by faith
    - **Noah** teaches how a faith which pleases God makes us **usable** to Him
- **Bottom line:** Faith which pleases God ***always*** shows itself in obedience
  - When we truly accept Christ as our Savior ~ there'll be verification in our lives
    - **Scripture Reading:** a saving faith reveals itself in our **changed** life
      - The question Jesus asked in Luke 6:46 illustrates the hypocrisy of calling oneself a Christian ~ then failing to obey God's Word
  - **3** things about **Noah** help **us** learn how **to be** children which God can use

## **First - let's consider NOAH'S REPUTATION**

- **Noah** lived during a time of great wickedness ~ where every inclination of the thoughts of the human race was only evil ... all the time
  - In contrast ... let's see how **Noah's** is described: **Gen 6:9**
    - **just and perfect** = Hebrew expression used to describe animals suitable for Holy Sacrifice
    - NIV - **Righteous** Noah always tried to do the right thing ~ integrity
    - NIV - **Blameless** Noah wasn't perfect (we're all sinners) ~ but he had no outstanding faults to tarnish his reputation
  - While the thoughts / actions of **Noah's** contemporaries were **evil** - always ...
    - **Noah** was a man of righteousness and was blameless among **his** culture

- In **our** culture ... we have the mistaken idea ~ the majority is always right
  - **I.E.** - We take polls to get people's opinions ~ most "news" is just opinion
    - But does what this majority think ~ really matter in God's Kingdom: **NO**
      - Camelot: *Might doesn't make right ~ Right makes might*
        - Truth is - in the **Bible** majority is almost always wrong
- Our culture trains us to be concerned about what other people think ~ peer pressure
  - Humans do need to be accepted ~ we can decide by Whom [ them - Him ]
    - But if we want to be used by God (like **Noah**) we need to be mindful of the truth in: **2 Tim 3:12** { will ... not may } **Psm 34:18, 22**
  - Key reason most people today refuse to follow Jesus is the same reason they didn't walk with God in **Noah's** time ...
    - ... same reason the majority of Jews refused to follow Jesus during His earthly ministry: **John 12:43**
- All of us are concerned about what other people think of us ~ but if we let what they think **dictate** what we do ...
  - ... **God can't use us**
    - Not only do we need to consider **Noah's** reputation ~~ but also:

## Let's consider NOAH'S ACT OF VENERATION

[ worship ]

- Please notice what **Heb 11:7** a states ...
  - The obedient building of the Ark was Noah *being* reverent to God
    - **Noah** [ a farmer ] had never seen a boat ... and the **SOP** tells us it never rained prior to the flood
      - Having never seen a boat – nor rain ... **Noah** acted w/ **Godly fear**
        - Proverbs 9:10: reverence for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom ... **Noah** listened to God and heeded His instructions
          - **FAITH** = He acted on God's Word → →

- Very interesting to read about the details about the Ark ~ ~ **Pat & Proph, Chpt 7**
  - Suffice it to say ... sometimes doing God's Will is just **hard** work
    - Although it hadn't been written ~ **Noah** knew the truth of -- **Phil 4:13**
- To answer the question: **CAN GOD USE US?** ~ we've looked at **Noah's** reputation and his challenging and demanding act of worship
  - How let's ponder ...

## **NOAH'S DECLARATION**

- As you know ~ **Noah** labored to construct the Ark ... for **120** yrs
  - But **he** was doing more than just being a carpenter during those **12 decades**
- **Preach the Gospel always; when necessary use words** **St Francis of Assisi** - ??
  - For 120 yrs ... **Noah** preached ~ ~ but no one outside his family believed
    - The multitude lived a normal life ... until the torrents of rain came
      - And they all perished ... except those in the Ark
- **Jesus** used this historical event in His teaching ~ **Matt 24:37 - 39**
  - Since **Noah** ... people haven't change ... most still **don't** listen to God's Word
    - Charles Spurgeon shared an insightful observation: *He who doesn't believe God punish **sin** will not believe He will **pardon** it thru Christ's atoning blood.*
- **Noah's** ministry of is an excellent example of a truth **Satan** wants **us** **not** to see:
  - God doesn't call us to be successful ~ ~ He calls us to be faithful
    - The most critical ability a child of God can possess is their **availability** for service in His Kingdom
- To answer the question of: **CAN GOD USE US** ~ we've considered **Noah's** reputation ... a tremendous act of worship ... his declaration ... → →

Finally ~~ let's contemplate ...

## **NOAH'S INTOXICATION**

- Just like you and me ~ **Noah** had weaknesses
  - He **wasn't** perfect ... just an ordinary person God used to do great things
    - 120 yrs he labored to build the Ark while sharing the coming judgment
  - Let's see what he did **after** all the water withdrew: **Gen 9:20, 21**
    - In Scripture ~~ **nudity** is generally regarded as **shameful**
- *I almost wish this passage wasn't in the Bible ...*
  - *Why does God tell us @ Noah getting drunk and acting in a disgraceful way*
- Here's a key truth to remember: **God's Word tells the truth ... the whole truth ... and nothing but the truth**
  - "**Half a truth is a whole lie**" ~ God never lies in any form or fashion
- If God only shared the stories of His "perfect" human children -- there wouldn't be much to write about ... for we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
  - We all have our weaknesses; and at times, we all sin ~ **1 John 1:9**
    - **When pleasing God ... important to know we too - will sin**
      - God realizes our weaknesses ~ He accepts our honest confessions and **welcomes** our return to Him
- Conversely ~~ **Satan** wants us to focus on our **sinfulness** ...
  - But **God** wants His Children to focus on the **Ark** He's asked us each to build
    - **Eph 2:10**                      **Titus 2:11 – 14**                      ( **V11** – saved by grace; **V14** )

- The Ark - **God** asks **us** to build probably won't be made of **gopher** wood ...
  - But like **Noah** ~ our assigned **Ark** will probably look **foolish** to the world
    - At the beginning ... God doesn't assign us a major construction project
      - He starts us out building "little arks" -- SS Lsn @ **Daniel**
        - **Luke 16:10**
  - **Adventist Home/297**: **Let** Jesus take possession of your mind, your heart, and your affections; and work as Christ worked, (carefully) doing ... little acts of self-denial and deeds of kindness, employing the moments diligently, keeping a (vigilant) watch against (all) sins and a grateful heart for (modest) blessings, and you will have at last such a testimony for yourself as was given to John and Samuel, and especially of Christ: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

**??**      Based on Noah's example ~~ **and a surety of God's Word** ~~ what changes do **we** need to make in **our** walk with God this coming week

Let's ponder this question ... as we sing: # **300** ~~ Rock of Ages