

**"The Subtle Dangers in this World"**

**Genesis 9:20-25**

**Introduction:** This morning we are going to get back into our study of the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis.

I want to do a short review so as to bring your mind up to speed about what we have been looking at in this study. The last time we were together we were looking at Noah as a believer. Noah lived a very corrupt time but the Bible tells us that he had found grace in the eyes of the Lord. In other words Noah was saved. He had believed God's promise of a future Redeemer that would come and defeat Satan. Noah did not understand all that would come in the future he just believed the Word of God and he had repented of his sin and therefore he was saved.

God had announced the coming flood and for 120 years Noah worked on building an ark. When it was complete God invited Noah and his family in and 8 souls turned their back on the world and stepped into the ark. They were willing to walk away from the old world and so they entered the ark believing that God could save them and give to them something far better than what this world had to offer.

That is a beautiful picture of true salvation. It is when someone turns their back on this world and places their faith in Christ to save them believing that God has something far better than this world has to offer, that they are saved. Noah was on the ark for over a year and then it finally came to rest and Noah and his family were commanded to exit the ark and this started a new life for them.

This is a picture of the believer's new life in Christ. From the events which are recorded about what Noah experienced after the flood we can glean great lessons for our new life in Christ as believers.

After Noah stepped from the ark God made a covenant with him in Genesis 9. In this covenant God had promised that he would never again destroy man with a global flood and the token of God's promise would be the rainbow which God would place in the clouds. The covenant with Noah would have meant so much. There would be other storms and I am sure Noah's mind would flash back to the severity of the flood as the skies would grow dark but Noah could rest assured that God was faithful and so he never had to worry about experiencing the judgment of God again. That by the way is a picture of the security we have in Jesus Christ.

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AM Service

Now I know that is a real quick overview as to where we have been but it does get you up to our passage. We have been in this text already for several messages. In this passage the Holy Spirit has inspired Moses to reveal an event in Noah's life and at first glance it seems as though there is not much here for you and I but that's wrong. There is much here for us to learn from.

## I. Lessons from Noah's sin.

### Notice Genesis 9:20-24

We have already looked at these verses also but again let me refresh your memory. There has been so much speculation about what happened here but we need to be careful not to go beyond the revelation given to us by the Bible.

Noah got drunk from the fermented wine and stripped down in his tent. His son Ham saw him and apparently mocked his father.

A key word to understanding this is the word "saw" in 9:22. It means "to look with delight". I believe there was something between Ham and his father. I also believe that Ham was probably into something which Noah probably called him on and it must have been something which Ham refused to give up. Therefore, without a teachable spirit he resented his father for pointing out the sin. I believe Noah must have been persistent in speaking about Ham's sin and this continued to make Ham bitter. Then when he saw the sin of his father he was delighted because he had something on his father. He then went and told his brothers who covered their father. This is a beautiful picture of a verse in Proverbs.

### Proverbs 10:12

<sup>12</sup> *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

There was a lack of love in Ham for his father.

When Noah woke his old sons had reported what Ham had done and Noah then pronounced a curse on Canaan who was the son of Ham. Why did the curse not come on Ham? The answer is because a saved man cannot be cursed. This is a great lesson for us in that we can see sin not only affects the person committing the act but also those within the family or around them.

This morning I want to back up and look at Noah's sin and how this all came about because I believe there is something here which God desires for us to see.

Sunday May 18, 2014 Recorded 9/16/2015 Aired 10/4/2015

AM Service

Now I had told you before that this is not the first sin which was committed after the flood but it is the first one recorded. Noah's sin was drunkenness and Ham's sin was parental disrespect.

**1. Be cautious of the old man.**

Noah was the old man out of the group and it was through him that this entire situation unfolded.

The lesson for us is that we too have an "old man" and by that I mean we have an "old nature" and it is our old nature or sin nature that desires that which is sinful. It is the old man that we must watch out for.

**Romans 6:6**

*<sup>6</sup> Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

**Ephesians 4:22**

*<sup>22</sup> That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

This all brings us to where we are today.

**2. Be cautious of ANYTHING which is of this world.**

**Notice Genesis 9:20-21**

As I told you before this was not the first sin which was committed after Noah and his family got off the ark. Noah planted the vineyard and it had time to grow before we see this sin. It takes a long time for a grape vine to grow and produce fruit. So this was certainly not the first sin. But it is the sin which God desired for us to see.

I believe that one of the reasons which this sin is recorded is because God wants us to see that even useful things can become sin if we do not keep them under control.

There was nothing wrong with growing a vineyard but Noah did not control the fruit of the vine but allowed the fruit of the vine to control him.

Sunday May 18, 2014 Recorded 9/16/2015 Aired 10/4/2015

AM Service

That is what happens in the lives of so many believers. They allow themselves to come under the control of something of this world and it takes them down a path where it affects not only them but also those around them.

In the New Testament we are warned about allowing ourselves to come under the power of anything.

### **1 Corinthians 6:12**

<sup>12</sup> *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but **I will not be brought under the power of any.***

That raises a question - What is it that I need to be on guard against?

It can be many things:

1. Work
2. Money
3. Hobbies
4. Sports

Everything falls under one of these headings. There are many things in this life which God has given to us to enjoy but if we are not careful we can get so caught up in whatever it might be and the next thing we know we are under its power.

Let me show you a verse about how God gives us things to enjoy.

### **1 Timothy 6:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, **who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;***

Paul made another statement in 2 Timothy.

### **2 Timothy 2:4**

<sup>4</sup> *No man that warreth **entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;** that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

The bottom line is that God has given to us many things to enjoy but we must be careful we do not become entangled in any of them.

*Sunday May 18, 2014 Recorded 9/16/2015 Aired 10/4/2015*

*AM Service*

I find it very interesting that Noah's sin which is recorded here in *Genesis* is with a vineyard which really is a vine which can entangle. We could say that Noah became entangled in the vine and he fell.

That is what happens to many of *God's* people. There is something which comes into their life and it is something which can be enjoyed but they become so entangled in it that it gets to the point where it controls them.

**God no longer is the Controller in their lives but now it is something of this world.**

The thing which they started out enjoying is now taking them away from the will of *God* and now they become guilty of the sin of distance. They have been pulled away from *God* by something which was meant for enjoyment and there is now a distance between them and *God*. The distance has come because they have walked away from *God* in order to give themselves over to something of this world.

They are not the only person affected but it has also affected their family because their family has followed them down a path that is leading them deeper into the world.

Let me show you how this can happen.

## **2 Timothy 4:10**

*<sup>10</sup> For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;*

This is just one example but we can see that the things of this world can take us away from serving *God*.

So how do we keep this from happening?

### **a. Keep a close watch on everything.**

Let me show you a passage where we can see the way in which we are to approach the things of this world.

Let me take you to the military manual which *God* gave to *Israel* as they prepared to go into the land of *Canaan*. The first part of it deals with the people in the land that was out at a great distance.

**Deuteronomy 20:10-15**

<sup>10</sup> *When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it.*

<sup>11</sup> *And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee.*

<sup>12</sup> *And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it:*

<sup>13</sup> *And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:*

<sup>14</sup> *But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.*

<sup>15</sup> *Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations.*

Any people who tried to rule over them were to be killed. Those who were willing to be servants they were permitted to save alive.

The application here is that there are things in this life that can be very useful but if they begin to rule over us we must cut them off from our lives.

**Conclusion:**

Back to Noah: The grape vine was something which could be very useful to Noah and his family but Noah allowed the fruit of it to control him. Therefore it became sin and the consequences were very costly.

As we pass through this world there are many things which we can enjoy but we must be sure we keep it all under control. If there is anything which enters your life and keeps you away from God you had better cut it off. If it goes too far it can be very costly and will not just affect you but also your family for generations to come.

Let me just say there are also things in this life that are wrong from the start and we must at all costs avoid them for they too can be extremely costly not just to us but to others around us.

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Let me give you an example:

I knew a lady who was confronted with her sin of smoking and refused to surrender. She died of suffocation.