

February 19, 2021

Read Genesis 8

Key verse: Genesis 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar.

The Right Kind of Worship

There are lots of reasons to admire Noah. He remained righteous while the rest of the world became more and more depraved. He was given a humongous task by God – first to build an ark and then to fill it with animals, and then to care for those animals while floating on an ocean until dry land can be found. And Noah just goes sets out to complete the task without ever complaining about the workload.

But what I admire most about Noah is his heartfelt worship. By *heartfelt* I mean that it was worship that came from his heart, worship that he initiated without any instruction or obligation. You see, while Noah had obeyed every order that God had given him, God never instructed Noah to build an altar and make sacrifices to Him, *and yet that was the first thing Noah did after releasing the animals on dry land.* He didn't worship God because he was told to; he did it because he wanted to. . It was Noah's spontaneous act of worship that impressed God so much that He promised never again to bring such destruction upon the earth, despite the wickedness that permeates the planet.

There are those who think of Lent as drudgery, as doing things (or *not* doing things) for God out of a sense of obligation or duty, not out of appreciation and thanksgiving. There are those who will merely *endure* Lent. Others, I believe, will discover the blessing that comes when we devote more time to God. And I believe many will reach that stage in their walk of faith when worship becomes more than a scheduled ritual, when worship flows spontaneously from a grateful heart.

Prayer: Lord God, during this season of Lent we pray that we would be like your servant Noah; that we would not only be obedient to your will but we would also offer you sincere, heartfelt praise and adoration. We open ourselves to the promptings of your Holy Spirit, and we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.