

ENOCH – THE MAN WHO PLEASED GOD

INTRODUCTION

Good morning to you all and thank you for journeying with us in our new series titled “By Faith”. We will be exploring amazing examples of faith found in scripture and looking at ways in which we can apply key truths from these passages to our own lives. Last week we learned about Cain and Abel in the book of Genesis and were reminded that God looks at the heart more so than our sacrifices; God was pleased with Abel’s sacrifice because he truly had a heart devoted to the Lord unlike his brother Cain. It is so refreshing and challenging to think about how much God is tuned in to the frequency of our hearts. What a king!

This morning we’ll be looking at what it looks like to live out our faith in a way that pleases God. Just to start our thinking process this morning I want to ask us a question that we can later discuss with our families and loved ones. The question is simple: What pleases you? Ask each other this question and take special attention to the responses to those around you. I have a strong feeling that there will be a lot of interesting discussions happening in our households this week if we truly ask one another this question.

Enoch in the bible is described as a man who walked faithfully with Lord and this brought great pleasure to God. I believe Enoch was able to please the Lord because he had spent time getting to know God and what pleased him. Let’s read Hebrews 11:5-6 and Genesis 5:21 to see what we can learn from Enoch’s life.

“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.”¹⁹ For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Hebrews 11:5-6 is a repeat of another account of Enoch’s life found in the Old Testament. To be more specific, he is mentioned in Genesis 5:21 which reads as follows:

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

A MOMENT OF CLARITY

There are at least two Enoch’s in the bible that should not be confused. There is Enoch the first child of Cain and his wife after whom Cain named the town he had built for himself and his offspring after the death of Abel (Gen 4). The other Cain, was the son of Jared and father of Methuselah. This is the Enoch described in Genesis 5 and Hebrews 11.

This morning we will be looking at these two passages by answering two key questions. 1. What did Enoch experience and what did he do in order to experience it?

○ WHAT DID ENOCH EXPERIENCE?

1. ENOCH NEVER EXPERIENCED DEATH

- Death is not a desirable part of our lives it certainly does not feature among the good things that God had set out for us in the beginning.
- We know death is the result of our deliberate choice to sin against God. What is sin? Anything that we think, say or do that is not in God's will. Death is not something to be embraced – it was part of the punishment for our sin!
- Another way to look at Enoch's disappearance is that he walked so closely with God that he was spared the punishment of death. He was given favour in how he moved from this life to the next.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7-8 *Therefore we are always of good cheer. And we know well that as long as we are at home in the body, we are away from God. ⁷For we walk in faith, and see not. ⁸Nevertheless, we are of good comfort – and yet would rather be away from the body, and be present with the Lord.*
- Here is the encouraging thing: We have been given this opportunity too!
- Romans 5:17 *“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!”*
- John 10:10 *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*
- Philippians 3:20-21 *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*
- What do we do while we await heaven? 2 Corinthians 5 :6-10 *⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*
- Story of Grandma

○ WHAT DID ENOCH DO?

2. BY FAITH ENOCH WAS TAKEN INTO ETERNAL GLORY

“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.”¹

- How did faith instantly translate Enoch from his earthly existence to a heavenly one?

- The answer is actually in the text - *For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.*
 - The “for” is the answer to the kind of faith Enoch had.
 - The passage is describing a continual faith and trust in God: Enoch is being commended for deliberately “walking” in faith with God continually. As a result God was pleased with him. It was not a once-off demonstration of faith!
 - Emphasis on “faithfully” (300 years)! Gen 5:21 “*When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. 22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*”
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- Implication for us – We are called to exercise faith in God every day of our lives hence Hebrews 11:6 “*6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who [continually] comes to him must believe that he exists...*”
 - You’re not walking unless you’re continually putting one foot in front of the other.
 - Galatians 5: 16-17 “*So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*”
 - This was certainly the choice that Enoch had to make on a daily basis and it is certainly the one we need to make too.
 - The whole point of our earthly journey is to walk with God and experience a deep level of intimacy with him while we’re still on earth in anticipation of that day when we finally stand before him for all eternity with no more sickness, shame and death.
 - Did you know that by continually setting aside time to seek the Lord and walk according to his ways you’re already demonstrating a level of faith? “*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*”
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3. ENOCH GREATEST REWARD - UNINTERRUPTED AND CONTINUAL COMMUNION WITH HIS GOD.
- I was thinking about Enoch’s family, relatives friends who instantly lost someone they must’ve dearly loved. Did he have enough time with them? Was he ready? Were they ready?
 - How would you feel if your loved one just suddenly disappeared to be with the Lord?
 - NB – If Enoch was living a daily life of continual devotion and love for God, others around him would have known that that is what he wanted above all else!
 - Isn’t it amazing how God rewards those who seek Him? He rewards us for wanting the best thing we could ever need. It’s a double blessing being offered to us.
 - *Luke 6:6” But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

- I don't particularly enjoy looking for things (my wife will confirm this) but I am always willing to seek if what I stand to find is of great worth to me. The value of what I am seeking influences how much I am willing to endure to find it.
- When last have you really sought the Lord? How much does walking in step with him mean to you? How much are willing to persevere and persist in your pursuit for him and his ways?
- We have this promise this morning: **He rewards those who earnestly seek him.**
- The amazing wisdom of God is also demonstrated in this: He gets to see the worth we place on him by how much we seek him.
- The reward may look different to each one but this is sure, his presence is always a part of the reward.

4. HOW CAN WE PLEASE GOD?

- Micah 6:8 - *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly⁽⁹⁾ with your God.***
- This is where we start, God didn't create us to be distant objects. He created us for communion and relationship with himself. This brings him great pleasure.
- We don't have to look at Enoch's story and wonder why God does not instantly take us away like he did Enoch. The reality is that we are being offered the same thing if not a little more! We get to live in constant communion with God right now and although we may die in our physical bodies one day we never have to die spiritually ever again.
- Our experience might be different to Enoch's experience, but we end up in the same place: In communion with God forever (in Christ). Have you asked God to lead you to everlasting life with him?

Enoch's faith was a daily faith in his God, that's what faithfully walking with the Lord looks like. This is how we please God.