

## A Biblical Pursuit of the Simplified Life

### A Life of Simplicity Leaves a Small Footprint and a Large Handprint

#### Opening thoughts

- Leave only foot prints take only pictures.
- The foot print verses the hand print.
  - Foot print – Refers to the lasting impact one person makes in their lifetime of living on planet earth. It is determined by the fuels we burn, the non – renewable resources we consume and the pollution we produce. The size of your carbon footprint is dependent on things such as the size of vehicle you drive the expanse and efficiency of the home you inhabit and the waste you left behind. The size of your carbon footprint will dictate the blessings or struggles of future generations because of you impact on the earth's condition after your life has passed.
  - Handprint – Is the impact you left as you allowed the hand of God to work through your life. It speaks of the extent that the love of God flowed through your life into the lives of others.
- Two commissions one command.
  - For Dominion
  - For Discipleship
  - Actions of Love
- Noah - A type and shadow of redemption and mans role.
  - Revelation & realization
  - Obedience to God's voice
  - Destruction and salvation (creation and faithful man)
  - Commission (dominion = responsibility)

#### The first commission was to care for creation

There are 5 main parts to the story of Noah

##### **Genesis 6 – (1) Revelation [The reality of God's existence]**

<sup>9</sup> This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. <sup>10</sup> Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. <sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth."

## Geneses 7 – (2) Obedience to God’s voice

<sup>1</sup> The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. <sup>2</sup> Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, <sup>3</sup> and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. <sup>4</sup> Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." <sup>5</sup> And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

## Characteristics of obedience

- Almost always be asked to break status quo.
- You’ll always be challenged beyond your natural abilities – to do the impossible.
- You will nearly always be criticized and ridiculed.
- Life will be a great adventure of faith.

## Genesis 8 – (3) A foreshadow of redemption – [Who and what was saved? – What was destroyed? - Faithful man and His creation.]

<sup>1</sup> But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

## Genesis 9 – (4) Commission for dominion & responsibility for creation – terms of God’s covenant:

<sup>1</sup> Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup> The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. [Dominion] <sup>3</sup> Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. [Provision] <sup>4</sup> "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. <sup>5</sup> And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. [Responsibility & accountability] I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. <sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. [Sanctity of life] <sup>7</sup> As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it." [Multiplication & inhabitation – blessing]

## Genesis 9 – (5) God’s covenant, promise & commission – a covenant between himself and earth (every living creature – this value to pass on to every generation)

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you [This covenant didn’t end in the O.T.] <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you-the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-every living creature on earth.(1.) <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup> And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: (2.) [This covenant calls for far

*sightedness.*] <sup>13</sup> I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (3.) <sup>14</sup> Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. (4.) Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. <sup>16</sup> Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." (5.)<sup>17</sup> So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."(6.) [*God is making a major point saying that his convenient is with man & the "earth" 6X's in a row*]

- This then is a commission for creations care or environmental stewardship – it demands a small foot print.

## The second commission is for discipleship:

### **Luke 5:1-11 “I’ll make you fishers of men.”**

1One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. 2He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper and let down your nets, and you will catch many fish." 5"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, we'll try again." [*An action of faith – trying God*] 6And this time their nets were so full they began to tear! 7A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. 8When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me--I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." 9For he was awestruck by the size of their catch, as were the others with him. 10His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

[*A revelation of Christ*]

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" [*The commission to go and make a big hand print*] 11And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. [*A transformation of the mind – No longer conforming to the world. (Now in it but not of it.) The adventure began as they left a materialistic life for the sake of the Kingdom.*]

### **Mathew 28 “Go and teach them to obey all the commands I have given you.”**

18Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. 19Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

### **Matthew 22 The greatest commandment**

36"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38This is the great and first commandment.

## The command is to love

- If we truly believe that God created this world one of the ways we will express our love & appreciation of his love is by caring for it. That's our small foot print.
- If we truly know that God so loved us that he provided his son to save us for eternity, then we will obey his command to love people. This is our hand print.
- Epitaph – Right now you are in the process of writing it.