

Day 4

Genesis 8:21 (ESV)

“And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.’”

What is the first thing you would have done when the doors opened on the ark, and you were finally able to touch solid ground and escape the smell of all those animals? I hope we would all have been like Noah. Noah took in a cleansing breath, and then he worshipped. Noah took time to slaughter an animal, build a fire, and prepare the sacrifice for worship. The ground was most likely still a little wet and muddy, but Noah worshipped. Finding comfort was far from his mind, and the glorious response from the Father was worth it all: He accepted Noah’s worship. He found the worship pleasing. I am sure that the Father had missed this aspect of His relationship with Noah, just as He does when we fail to worship Him.

The Father wants us to live in an attitude of thankfulness and worship. The truth is that we cannot honestly worship without hearts that are thankful. When Noah stepped on the ark and the door was closed, he had no idea what was about to happen. He had heard God’s warning and responded. But when Noah stepped off the boat, he was completely aware of all that had occurred. His friends and extended family were gone. His home was gone. His business was gone. Yet Noah worshipped. We are told in 1 Thessalonians to give thanks in every circumstance because with thanks comes freedom to worship and praise God. In the worst of our moments, we should have such a close relationship with the Father that worship comes naturally. God is moved by our sincere worship. This verse goes on to say that not only did the smell of Noah’s worship and sacrifice please God, but also that it moved God to make a promise to never again curse the earth because of the evil intentions of mankind’s heart.

Focused Prayer:

What is the Father saying to you today? Are you holding back from unbridled worship? Are you unwilling to let go of your anger because someone has hurt you? Or maybe you feel that God has been unfair? Today consider all that the Father has done for us, starting with the most pleasing sacrifice that He has given--the life of His only son. He did that for you, and He wants you to be willing to offer up praise and worship and sacrifice in return so that He can inhale the pleasing aroma. Listen to the Father’s voice. What is He asking you to do today?

This is a great day to let go and worship the Father with all your heart. David danced with abandonment before Him. What are you willing to do?

Today's Focus:

- Read the story of Noah again. Think about all that God did to deliver Him through the flood. Compare that with what He has done to deliver you from your sin.
- What do you need to offer the Father as a pleasing aroma today?

P.M. Meditation:

Were you able to take the time to build a fire of sacrifice and worship today--in your heart of course. If not, during the morning hours, how about now? Take time to take an inventory of all you have been given and all that you have lost. We need to do both. When we take the time to see the goodness of God, we can then take the hurt and loss and lay them on the altar of sacrifice to Him. Make a list of your blessings and your pains from today.

As you prepare to rest, take time to quietly worship. Turn on some praise music and get your worship on. Tonight, rest in His promises your worship is a sweet aroma to His heart.