

Series: EPIC: God's Story, Your Story
Message: Humanities' Problem

January 19, 2013

The Common Thread: There is a Holy God who lovingly pursues a relationship with His creation, Man.

Big Picture

- Every human has chosen self over and apart from God.
- God looks at the heart.
- Self and sin lead to separation and death; Obedience leads to life and relationship with God.
- God is the source of grace and mercy.

Scene 1 ~ A Tale of two Brothers

Genesis 4, Luke 6:45

God looks at the heart—it was a heart issue.

- What do you do when you don't feel accepted?
- What are you willing to do for acceptance?

Scene 2 ~ The Flood

Genesis 6-9, John 15:1-20, Hebrew 11:7

Blameless is not sinless it is excuseless.

Godly obedience will:

- *set you apart from the crowd.*
- *encourage others to follow.*
- *bring salvation to others.*

Things to think about...

This week take note of how often you want something someone else has. Also watch for when you feel a strong desire to do something for other's approval.

Think about your choices... which choices in your life have led to "death" or separation, and which choices have you made that lead to "life" and relationship? Which of these choices were motivated by "self?"

How easy is it to do the right thing, even when you know what's right, when you would rather do something else that would benefit you? What would it take to always be motivated by God's plan for our life instead of our own desires and what pleases us in the moment?

Try and find one tangible thing you could do to bless another person this week. And do one thing that creates or restores beauty into the world. Start with something small, but tell another person what you did.

Things to read about...

Would you like to read through the key stories of the Bible in chronological order, tracing the development of God's plan from Adam and Eve to the church of the New Testament? This reading plan introduces you to the major people and events of the Bible in chronological order, beginning with Creation, moving through the birth and history of the Israel nation, and ending with Revelation's prophetic words. It's all broken down into 61 easy-to-read segments.

biblegateway.com/reading-plans/chronological

Hebrews 11:4-7 “By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks... By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

1 Samuel 16:7 “For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

Verse to memorize (It will help you remember some big ideas from the story)

1 Samuel 16:7 “For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

(cont.)

Godly obedience can get:

- *uncomfortable.*
- *smelly.*
- *incredibly painful.*

The choice we're left with:

Do we trust God enough to give him our future?

- *He seems to know all things.*
- *God will never allow evil to remain in His presence.*
- *He promised One who would come to kill the serpent.*
- *He keeps his promises.*
- *He is the source of all grace.*

(Parts of study adapted from story of God, Soma. used by permission)