

# Coach House Church

# BEACONS

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## STAND OUT

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9TH JUNE 2021

Jamie and I went on holiday last week with the boys, Noah and Eli. Noah is an imitator and will copy whatever behaviour is around him and therefore has started saying "Oh my God" because he hears it around him. We have had to have conversations with him that go along the lines of, just because everyone else is doing it doesn't make it right and that you have to stand up and be different, even though that's hard and needs some training.

One story in the bible that highlights this is the Noah in the bible. We sort of skip over the part of the story where Noah had to tell people that the rain was coming and build the boat, but it happened. Let's read the story of Noah: "This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 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. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind

of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

Noah did everything just as God commanded him."

Noah had to stand up for what he believed in and not just follow what the society of the day was doing. The people of the day had rejected God's way and had chosen to go their own way, as people eventually always do. People would have thought he was mad as they'd never had a flood before, and he would have been a social outcast.

This is highlighted quite well in the film *Evan Almighty*. This is a story of a guy that God tells to build a boat because a flood is coming. He tries to ignore it but all sorts of weird things start to happen to him like wood being delivered for the boat without him ordering it or a beard growing spontaneously or animals being drawn to him. Eventually he decides to do what God has asked him to do and starts to build a boat. The film highlights well how other people thought he was crazy for doing it. Sometimes, doing what God wants us to do will make us look weird to others.

We need to be brave, just as Noah was, and be ok with being different. It is not natural for the world to live as we live. The world has been corrupted by sin and it no longer naturally tends to God's way. We need to show others around us the way life was originally intended to be, which sometimes, might look strange.

I am a teacher and one day one of the kids called another one weird. I responded with, well so are you, so are all of us. None of us are exactly like someone else. We all have our own likes and dislikes, our own desires, our own ways of being. We are not alike in many ways so we are all weird in our own way. But that is the way God wants it to be. He doesn't want us all to be the same.

I'm not saying we should act strangely just to make a point. This could drive people away from us and from the Christian faith and isn't what should be happening.

God wants us to be who we were made to be. Our society has got this confused with being who we feel we are. Our emotions and thoughts are a really good thing but they do not determine who we are. We are children of God, loved by God and saved by God to be His people and to follow His rules. This isn't a popular topic nowadays as we don't like to feel controlled but God has given us guidelines to live by. These guidelines are the absolute best thing for us, even if it doesn't feel like it moment by moment. Even if living like this makes others gossip about us or look down on us, this is what we should be doing.

This was Israel's original calling. It was meant to be a people that others saw. It was meant to show the world how glorious God was and how He wanted people to live. It was meant to show that this was the best life. They failed in that mission, so we need to take on the mantle and show the world what it means to live with God.

So live for God, stand out, be different. Because everyone is different and because that's what God's called us to be. We are called to live by His standards and show the world how that should look.



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