

1. A couple of weeks ago I mentioned a fairly new song out by the group Casting Crowns called Crazy People.
2. The first verse asks a series of questions.
 - Who builds a boat with no clouds in sight?
Who walks up to a giant and picks a fight?
Who turns a lion's den into a petting zoo?
Who can have a church in the fiery furnace? I'll tell you...Crazy people.
3. It's a song about people who followed and obeyed the Lord, and as a result saw some amazing things happen.
4. For the next couple of weeks we are going to be looking at extraordinary examples from the bible of people in whom God did very extraordinary things.
5. Another word for **extraordinary: remarkable, exceptional, amazing, astonishing, sensational.**
6. I want that to be our focus because without it we will be confused. What makes a person an extraordinary Christian is not some special quality or ability that they possess. But rather what makes them a remarkable Christian is the special quality and abilities that God possess.
7. I don't know about you, but when I look at myself, I don't think of myself as being very extraordinary, or exceptional. I don't look at myself and think, wow Jeff, you are really talented, or you are very gifted.
8. Sure I have some things I do well, but I am also aware that I have many areas where I fall short, and I miss the mark.
9. I recognize there are people with giftings in different areas that are better at certain things than I am.
10. Maybe you have that view of yourself as well. I think it is good to have a healthy self-esteem, to view ourselves in the proper way. Not too high an opinion of one's self and not too low an opinion of one's self.
11. But maybe like me you don't see yourself as extraordinary. Maybe the truth of the matter is you see yourself as kind of ordinary.
12. Often times when we think of extraordinary, we think of people we might see on the nightly news or on the nightly sports report. We think

of extraordinary people as being people who can play ball well, or act really well, or sing really well, or run a business really well.

13. All these things we equate with being extraordinary. But we look at ourselves in the mirror and think. I don't have any extraordinary qualities. There is nothing I do really well or that is so much better than someone else.
14. And so I get that and I can see how that self-view might keep us from believing that somehow we could be an extraordinary, exceptional, amazing Christian, but again, when we talk about Christianity we are not talking about some special quality or ability that we possess, what makes us great or extraordinary Christians is the power and the ability and the qualities that our heavenly father possesses.
15. And I believe a perfect example of that is found in the life of the Old Testament character named Enoch.
16. Listen to what the word has to say about Enoch.

TEXT: **Genesis 5:18-24** When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. 19 After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died. 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.

TITLE: **No more.**

INTRO:

1. This chapter in the book of Genesis, is a record of the people who lived on the earth after Adam and Eve were banned from the garden of Eden.
2. The first thing that you probably notice is that these folks lived a very long time. They lived hundreds of years. 800 to over 900 years.
3. That is a long time. I don't think I would want to live to be 900 years old. Don't get me wrong. I am not ready to go on the next load, but 900 years is just a little more than I want to spend on this earth.
4. I would rather be in heaven.

5. The second thing that might stand out is that Enoch didn't live quite as long as the other men who were in his lineage. While they were living 900 years or more, Enoch only lived 365 years.
6. The third thing that to me is sensational is how the end of Enoch's life on this earth came about.
7. There is no record or account of Enoch's death. In fact, Enoch did not die a natural death or any other kind of death.
8. Verse 23 simply says that Enoch was no more because God took him away.
9. Enoch is one of only two men in the Old Testament who didn't experience death. The other man was Elijah. You may remember he was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind and was never seen again.
10. So the fact that Enoch didn't experience death was remarkable. That is in fact amazing.
11. I think if I had the choice, I would like to go like Enoch did. I would like for God to just take me away and not have to experience death.
12. Now I know I don't have that choice, and that God doesn't leave it up to me, but wouldn't that be great? To just not be anymore.
13. I can't fully explain what happened, but I like the story of a little girl who came home from small group and was telling her mother about Enoch.
14. The little girl said, every day God would come by Enoch's house and invite Enoch to go for a walk. Every day Enoch would go with God and as they walked and talked, they became closer and closer and closer.
15. This went on for some time, until one day God shows up and says, today we are going to go on a really long walk Enoch. We are going to go much further than we have in the past.
16. They walk and they talk, and they travel some distance until finally at the end of the day God says to Enoch. Enoch, we are closer to my house than we are to your house. Why don't you just come with me and be with me where I am so we can talk any time we want.
17. And Enoch agreed.
18. I don't know if that's how it happened, but I sure like it. God just took Enoch out of this world, and that was extremely extraordinary.
19. But remember, it was incredible because of what God did not

because of what Enoch did. God was the one who did something amazing and miraculous.

20. So let's look at what Enoch's part was in this extraordinary happening.

Enoch didn't walk with God.

1. Genesis 5:21-22 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.
2. Enoch's father's name was Jared. Now we are given nothing here at all to help us get to know Jared any better except two or three little pieces of information.
3. First of all, Jared lived a long time. He lived 962 years. Jared is the second longest living man on the face of the earth. Enoch's son Methuselah lived to be 969 years of age.
4. Secondly, we find that Jared became the father of Enoch when he was 162 years old. And then he lived another 800 years. So Jared lived on the earth longer than his son Enoch. Enoch was taken away before Jared his dad died.
5. The third thing I notice is that Jared didn't bring up his son Enoch to follow and serve the Lord. At least if he did, Enoch didn't obey his father very well.
6. Genesis 5:21-22 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.
7. It wasn't until after Methuselah was born that Enoch began walking with the Lord.
8. What that tells me is that Enoch wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He wasn't born into an extremely religious family. He probably didn't have the proper spiritual upbringing and the things of God were not instilled in him at an early age.
9. He spent 65 years of his life doing his own thing. For us that is nearly an entire lifetime.
10. So what I see here is that God didn't choose Enoch because he was special or extraordinary or because he had some talent or ability, he chose a guy who didn't even know the Lord for a long time.

11. What that tells me is that extraordinary Christianity is not dependent upon how you start, it is dependent on how you finish.
12. Some of you in this room may have had a rough start. I wish that everyone had the same opportunity that I did, to grow up in a Christian home and to be taught the things of God from a very early age.
13. I wish that everybody were taught right from wrong very early on and that that upbringing would serve as foundation for a great life for the Lord to come, but I know that isn't the case.
14. But thank God, extraordinary Christianity is not dependent on how well your parents did. Astonishing Christianity is not dependent on what you did or didn't do before you met the Lord. Amazing Christianity isn't reliant upon how lost you were before you met the Lord, what set's you up to be an extraordinary Christian is that no matter where you were, God saw you, and he picked you up and he cleaned you off, and he set you on the right path, a path of following him.
15. **The greatest thing about serving Jesus is Jesus. Not us.** The greatest thing about serving Jesus is that he found me when I wasn't looking for him. Jesus is the savior, and I am not.
16. Don't let your past keep you from considering extraordinary Christianity. Don't let past failures and past disappointments or
17. Don't let past sins convince you that God couldn't use someone like you in extraordinary ways, it just isn't true.
18. Extraordinary Christianity is dependent upon Jesus.
19. Secondly, extraordinary Christianity is based on the most basic principle there is.

Walking with the Lord.

1. **Genesis 5:22** After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.
2. Now I know we are not given much to go on here, but there is something very special about this description of Enoch.
3. There are only two men in the Old Testament who were described as walking with God. Only two. Out of the great names like Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. Out of the people like king David and king Solomon

and Elijah and Elisha and the great prophets, only two men had the distinction of walking with God.

4. Enoch and Noah. Now, we get almost nothing about the life of Enoch to go on, but we get a bundle of information about Noah.
5. Noah, you remember was living in a time when hardly anyone else besides his family were serving the Lord. In fact, Noah preached that the end of the world was coming for 100 years, and he had no converts.
6. God told Noah to build a great ship because he was going to destroy the earth with a flood. And Noah obeyed.
7. I think Noah's life could be summed up with two statements. Noah heard God's voice and he obeyed.
8. Noah heard God speak to him. He heard God give him direction, and based on that direction Noah obeyed the Lord and did what God said.
9. We can assume that those were the qualities that set Enoch apart from everyone else.
10. Now we don't know if Enoch built something. We don't know if he built an altar or a barn or some temple to worship the Lord.
11. We don't know if he created some kind of special robes to worship God with. We don't know if he instituted some of the rituals of worship and passed them down to others, we just don't know.
12. But what we do know is that if Enoch was anything like Noah, then he heard from God and he obeyed.
13. He heard God give him direction and he obeyed. And because of those two things, Enoch lived an extraordinary life of Christianity. God took him from the earth to be with him in heaven without Enoch having to experience death.
14. Now, I don't mean to belittle what Enoch did because obviously he did something right. But listening for the voice of God and being obedient are the simplest, most basic, elementary, and straightforward things that any believer can do.
15. If we ought to be doing anything we should be listening for the voice of God and we should be obedient.
16. I mean, you don't have to be saved very long to know that you ought to listen to the voice of God and obey. Those are some of the basic

principles that we teach new believers upon their birth into the kingdom of God.

17. So what is this great, extraordinary thing that Enoch did. He heard God's voice and he obeyed.
18. I say that based on that description, each and every person in this room can experience amazing Christianity.
19. There is not one person who is left out of that description of what God is looking for. Each and every believer here today can walk with the Lord by listening for his voice and then being obedient to what he says.
20. I'm telling you; you were made for greatness. You were made for extraordinary Christianity.
21. And the final thing we see about Enoch is that...

Enoch walked faithfully with God.

1. Genesis 5:24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.
2. I could spend quite a bit of time here giving you a description of what the word faithful means, and all of them would be good definitions.
3. I could tell you that being faithful is being trustworthy; being able to be counted on; doing what you said you would do; and all of those are good examples.
4. But I think the thing that stands out to me about Enoch's faithfulness. Was that he was faithful for 300 years.
5. He started walking with the lord when he was 65 years old. And he walked with God 300 more years. So that would make him 365.
6. If we divide that by an average of 75 years, Enoch lived almost five lifetimes. Enoch lived almost five times as long as we can expect to live. But he walked with God faithfully all 300 of those years.
7. He didn't walk faithfully one day, or one time or one month. He didn't walk with the lord for a year or even a decade, he walked faithfully with the Lord for 300 years day in and day out.
8. To me that is significant because only God could give him the strength to serve faithfully for so many years. To me it is evident that God was at work in Enoch's life.

9. The power of almighty God helped Enoch put one foot in front of the other, and one foot in front of the other for 300 years. I say to you if the Lord can help Enoch walk faithfully for 300 years then surely he can help you walk faithfully for the few years that you have on this earth.
10. Walk faithfully. Don't be a one hit wonder. Don't be wishy washy. Don't be up one second and down the next, keep your eyes focused on the stability that the lord brings.

Conclusion:

1. You see Enoch was extraordinary, not because of himself, but because of what God did in his life. And even what Enoch did do was the most basic that any Christian could and should do.
2. **You were made for Extraordinary Christianity.** You were created for remarkable Christianity. You have the makeup to be an exceptional Christian, not because of you but because of who God is.
3. Salvation call.
4. Come back to the basics. Listen for the voice of the Lord and obey.
5. In order to hear we have to ask.
6. I am ashamed to admit that sometimes I worry about something for a while, only to realize that I never asked God what he thought or what he wanted.
7. What have you been struggling with that you need to ask God for direction with?
8. Ask the Lord to speak to you.
9. Then ask the Holy Spirit to silence all the false voices in your head and heart.
10. Then, with the help of the Lord be obediently consistent.
11. If there is anyone here today who has all the answers you need. You don't need any direction or wisdom from the Lord about anything, then please tune me out.
12. But if you do need to hear from the Lord, can we practice what I have just shared with you.
13. Ask.

14. Listen.
15. Obey.