

Bible Study – January 6, 2021

Genesis 9:20-23

Questions:

- Why did Noah get drunk after the flood?
- Why did his sons respond the way they did?

²⁰ Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. ²¹ He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and he lay uncovered in his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

Why did Noah get drunk after the flood?

- Noah planted a vineyard.
- Why did he drink too much?
 - Maybe he felt the burden of repopulating the earth.
 - Maybe he didn't realize how strong wine was and simply overindulged.
- As happens when one has too much wine, Noah's decision-making abilities were compromised and he acted in a way he wouldn't have if he were sober.
- In his tent, Noah was drunk and naked – intoxication and sexual looseness are the hallmarks of pagans.
- Mankind had not really changed – the flood didn't wipe away sin.

Why did his sons respond the way they did?

- Ham – saw his father naked and told his brothers
 - To even see one's father naked was a breach of family ethic – however, this was not Ham's fault. He simply walked in on him.
 - What he should have done is simply cover him and leave.
 - What he did next was the problem – he went and told his brothers as if he had triumphed over his father.
- Shem and Japheth – walked backwards to cover their father.
 - Rather than gloating over their father's sin, they covered him – literally and figuratively.

Something to Ponder: What do we do when we see someone else's sin? Do we gossip to others about what that person did? Or do we "cover" them – as in, pray for them and maybe ask if they need help, depending on the situation.