**Man’s Response to God**

 ***20****Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.****21****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.****22****While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:20-22, ESV)*

 In response to God’s interventions, man’s response is called to be worship.

 Greetings dearly beloved as we talk today about the indispensability of worship, based on the account of Noah in the Bible. As we follow the story, we are already through the calamity and the whole world is already cleansed. The time has come from mankind to start a new life – so what did they do, how, and what does man’s sacrifice or offering to God mean in the aftermath of the worldwide flood? Scripture has answers to the above questions.

 As Noah responded to God’s intervention by worshipping Him due to knowing Him at a greater level, we are also called to respond similarly. The account of the flood still had not found its closure. There was still an unspoken expectation from God, as to how Noah would respond to the flood experience. What was Noah going to do, when his entire world became confined to living in the ark? What about afterwards, when he had to start all over with life again? What was he going through internally, and what was his relationship with God like? From the record of what happened, the answers to the above questions are clear: Noah stayed in faith when his world was destroyed. Noah decided to worship God as his first act after being rescued from the flood. Noah’s sacrifice was done so rightly, with such a right heart, that God promised that he would never again bring such a disaster on the whole earth. Yes, God said, people did not change after the flood, and are still thinking evil even from their childhood, but nevertheless, He would never bring another worldwide flood again. Why? The reason is clear: He saw that Noah, who was also imperfect like others, was at least righteous and dependent on God, and honoring and worshipping Him.

 The following story tells much about what worship is: deeply immersed in meditation during a church service, Italian poet Dante Alighieri failed to kneel at the appropriate moment. His enemies hurried to the bishop and demanded that Dante be punished for his sacrilege. Dante defended himself by saying, "If those who accuse me had had their eyes and minds on God, as I had, they too would have failed to notice events around them, and they most certainly would not have noticed what I was doing."

 Worship is entirely an act of the heart and the soul. Noah presented a sacrifice to God that was wholehearted and pleasing to Him. Dante had so devoted himself to God that he could not focus on anything else as he worshipped. We also, when the opportunity arises to respond to an act of God, ought to be ready to worship Him. Worship is one of the primary purposes of human life. Man is created to glorify God with the life that he lives. How important it is to remember God after getting through disasters, but also in times of peace and in times of joy or otherwise. Sometimes, the opportunity to worship is going to come about during a celebration or party. Other times, the occasion may be a more painful one, during which prayer or the Word of God will be appropriate to share.

 The crux of the matter is the following: that God intervened, and that Noah saw God’s power and faithfulness to him and worshipped in response. Similarly, Dante was so deep into worship that he could not follow the doings of people around him. You and I, then, ought to ask ourselves: how often to we worship God during our daily routine? Now that His Spirit dwells within and among us as Christians, where are our hearts when we are worshipping as a corporate body? How well do we recognize God’s actions and His power in our lives?

 May God give us the awareness to notice His works in our lives, and may we strengthen our corporate worship life on Sundays by worshipping Him when we are doing life outside these four walls of the church building.

 Noah got to know God’s identity and worshipped Him – our life is also called to be the same. In response to God’s interventions, man’s response is called to be worship. The Lord bless you all. Amen.