



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

A Study Through Genesis 1–11 | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

The Day God Repented

Genesis 6:1–8

THE BIG IDEA

The wickedness of the human heart grieves God deeply. But in the very same passage where judgment is announced, grace is already extended to those who walk with him.

SERMON SUMMARY

Genesis 6 records something striking: God “regretted” making humanity, and it grieved him to his heart. This isn’t a contradiction of God’s perfection, his repentance isn’t due to poor planning or surprise, but an expression of genuine grief over the depth of human rebellion. Two things provoke this grief: the unchecked rebellion described in verses 1–4, and the staggering statement of verse 5, that every intention of the human heart was “only evil continually.”

It’s a sobering picture of how quickly unchecked sin compounds. What you feed will grow, for better or worse. Yet the chapter doesn’t end in despair. After describing God’s decision to blot out humanity, verse 8 offers a hinge point: “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” Even amid universal corruption, God’s grace finds someone walking with him — a pattern that points forward to the grace available to all who trust him today.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 6:6 says God “regretted” making humanity. Numbers 23:19 and Psalm 18:30 remind us God is perfect and unchanging. How do you reconcile God’s grief here with his unchanging character, and what does it teach you about how seriously he takes sin?
2. Verse 5 says every intention of the human heart was “only evil continually” — no exceptions, no pause. What does this level of pervasive corruption reveal about how far unchecked sin can spread, both culturally and personally?
3. The sermon highlights a simple principle: “what you feed will grow.” Where in your own life right now are you feeding sinful desires rather than godly ones, even in small, seemingly harmless ways?
4. God’s first response to sin in this passage is grief, not anger. How does picturing God’s posture toward sin as grief, rather than only wrath, change the way you think about your own sin and his heart toward you?
5. Verse 8 ends with “but Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord” — grace breaking into a chapter otherwise filled with judgment. Where do you most need to be reminded today that God’s grace still finds you, even amid your own failures?

LIVING IT OUT

It's tempting to think sin only matters once it becomes dramatic or undeniable. But Genesis 6 shows how a heart left unchecked compounds quietly until evil feels normal. The same chapter, though, reminds you that grace is never out of reach for those who walk with God.

Heart Check: What sinful desire have you been quietly feeding? Is there something that has grown more comfortable in your life than it should be?

This Week: Identify one specific righteous desire or habit you want to intentionally feed this week in place of a sinful one, and take one concrete step toward it — whether that's an accountability conversation, a changed routine, or simply consistent prayer.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

— **Genesis 6:8**

Confess to God the specific desires you've been feeding that grieve his heart, and ask him for the grace Noah received — favor you didn't earn, offered freely to those who walk with him.

Your Prayer:

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