

Sermon Series: The Strong Family—6/25/2000—Lord of Life Lutheran

Title: “Anticipating the Unusual”

Text: Genesis 6-9 (selected verses)

Introduction: “All I need to know I learned from Noah’s Ark”

Theme: If we ground our hope--not our ability to handle the unusual events of life but in our faith in God to help us handle and move through it—we will find our lives and homes filled with the anticipation, expectation, and the excitement of faith as we wait on God to act.

Anticipate God’s M.O. in life’s stream of events

- C Not being surprised by the fallen life through which God must lead you
 - 1. Like Noah, we can live in some pretty dark times in which the abnormal and immoral are accepted as the usual
 - **Print and read Genesis 6: 5-7**
 - *“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.” 1 Peter 4: 12*
 - 2. As in Noah’s time God comes to rescue His people out of the depravity and overwhelming surprises of the day
 - **Print and read Genesis 6: 8-10**
 - *“Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days.” Mark 13: 20*
- C Remind yourself and your family that the unusual is God’s standard operating procedure
 - 1. God commanded and expected Noah to act by faith on his miraculous plan and Noah did and survived
 - **Print and read Genesis 6: 13-21**
 - **ILLUS.: BLIND FAITH**
 - *“It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before. By his faith he condemned the rest of the world and was declared righteous in God’s sight.” Hebrews 11: 7*
 - 2. The Bible is overflowing with outrageous, totally unimaginable, miraculous way God works in our world and lives
 - parting of the Red Sea, manna from heaven, Jericho walls tumbling down, virgin birth, feeding of the five thousand, healing after healing, the crucifixion, the resurrection
 - 3. What “unusual” and “totally ridiculous” thing is God asking you and your family to go through *by faith* right now
 - **ILLUS.: INSIGHT**
 - illness, career change, marriage struggle, reconciling with an estranged family member, dealing with bad situation
 - *“By God’s mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.” Ephesians 3: 20*

Anticipate God’s expectation of you and your family as he leads you through the surprises of life

- C **Knowing** what God’s will for the moment is and **doing** it
 - 1. Twice during this story it says, *“So Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.” (6:22)*
 - 2. *“Noah had God’s approval and was a man of integrity among the people of his time. Gen. 6: 9*
 - 3. **ILLUS.: CHARACTER**
 - 4. *“Character is not made in crisis--it is only exhibited.”*
 - 5. Does your family/you know what God’s will is so that they can do it with integrity in the moment of the unusual?
- C **Trusting** in God’s plan for the long-haul and **waiting** for it
 - 1. Patient trust is part of obedience to God
 - For Noah the hardest part was not building the ark and gathering the animals but floating on the water (1 year)
 - When God lays out his plan, are you willing to wait around for the deliverance?
 - ILLUS.: LINE JUMPING—IT NEVER REALLY SAVES YOU**
 - 2. When the answer comes, trusting God enough to step out and put our full weight on it
 - Noah and his family had to be courageous in faith to step out of the safety of the ark onto dry ground
 - *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11: 1*
- C **Rejoicing** in God’s promise and **watching** for it
 - 1. By worshipping God as a family when he brings about your deliverance from the unusual
 - **Read and print Genesis 8: 20-22**

2. By looking for the signs of promise that are right in front of your nose

– **Read and print Genesis 9:12-16**

– *“For as many as may be the promises of God, in Jesus Christ they are yes! 2 Corinthians 1: 20*

“ALL I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM NOAH’S ARK”

ONE: Don’t miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you’re 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don’t listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety’s sake travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn’t always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you’re stressed, float awhile

TEN: Remember the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God there’s always a rainbow waiting

BLIND FAITH

I WAS WORKING at an employment center and a man asked me how to fill in the employment-history section on the application form. I explained that he should start with his present job and work backward. Noting the puzzled look on his face, I made up some examples. "You might write that from February 1985 to now you have been unemployed. And from January 1982 to February 1985 you were a baker's assistant. From January 1980 to January 1982, you were a messenger. And so on." Minutes later he was at my desk again. "Where did you say I was in 1980?" --Contributed to "All In a Day's Work" by Albert C. Ambrose

Insight

Automaker Henry Ford asked electrical genius Charlie Steinmetz to build the generators for his factory. One day the generators ground to a halt, and the repairmen couldn't find the problem. So Ford called Steinmetz, who tinkered with the machines for a few hours and then threw the switch. The generators whirred to life--but Ford got a bill for \$10,000 from Steinmetz. Flabbergasted, the rather tightfisted car maker inquired why the bill was so high. Steinmetz's reply: For tinkering with the generators, \$10. For knowing where to tinker, \$9,990. Ford paid the bill. Today in the Word, MBI, April, 1990, p. 27

Character

A number of years ago the Douglas Aircraft company was competing with Boeing to sell Eastern Airlines its first big jets. War hero Eddie Rickenbacker, the head of Eastern Airlines, reportedly told Donald Douglas that the specifications and claims made by Douglas's company for the DC-8 were close to Boeing's on everything except noise suppression. Rickenbacker then gave Douglas one last chance to out-promise Boeing on this feature. After consulting with his engineers, Douglas reported that he didn't feel he could make that promise. Rickenbacker replied, "I know you can't, I just wanted to see if you were still honest." Today in the Word, MBI, October, 1991, p. 22

Genesis 6:5-7

⁵The LORD saw how evil humans had become on the earth. All day long their deepest thoughts were nothing but evil. ⁶The LORD was sorry that he had made humans on the earth, and he was heartbroken. ⁷So he said, "I will wipe off the face of the earth these humans that I created. I will wipe out not only humans, but also domestic animals, crawling animals, and birds. I'm sorry that I made them."

Genesis 6:8-9

⁸But the LORD was pleased with Noah. . . ⁹Noah had God's approval and was a man of integrity among the people of his time. He walked with God.

Genesis 6:13-22

¹³God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to all people because the earth is full of their violence. Now I'm going to destroy them along with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself a ship of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ship and coat it inside and out with tar. ¹⁵This is how you should build it: the ship is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ship, and leave an 18-inch-high opening at the top. Put a door in the side of the ship. Build the ship with lower, middle, and upper decks. ¹⁷I'm about to send a flood on the earth to destroy all people under the sky—every living, breathing human. Everything on earth will die. ¹⁸"But I will make my promise to you. You, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives will go into the ship. ¹⁹Bring two of every living creature into the ship in order to keep them alive with you. They must be male and female. ²⁰Two of every type of bird, every type of domestic animal, and every type of creature that crawls on the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹Take every kind of food that can be eaten and store it. It will be food for you and the animals." ²²So Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Genesis 8:20-22

²⁰Noah built an altar to the LORD. On it he made a burnt offering of each type of clean animal and clean bird. ²¹The LORD smelled the soothing aroma. He said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of humans, even though from birth their hearts are set on nothing but evil. I will never again kill every living creature as I have just done. ²²As long as the earth exists, planting and harvesting, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never stop."

Genesis 9: 12-16

¹²God said, "This is the sign of the promise I am giving to you and every living being that is with you for generations to come. ¹³I will put my rainbow in the clouds to be a sign of my promise to the earth. ¹⁴Whenever I form clouds over the earth, a rainbow will appear in the clouds. ¹⁵Then I will remember my promise to you and every living animal. Never again will water become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember my everlasting promise to every living animal on earth."