

Sermon Title: Fear and Faith on a ship

1) How many of you are ready for the pandemic to be over, for the quarantine to be over, and for life to go back to how it used to be?

- How would you be if we knew for sure that this would go on for another 9 months?

2) What is the biggest ship you have ever been on?

Well today we are going to be talking about a ship that is very famous, very big, and took a very long voyage.

Noah's story: God came to Noah and said "the whole world other than you and your family is corrupt and full of violence so I am going to flood the whole earth and kill everything. Build an Ark that is 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high and fill it with a set of all of the living animals on earth."

Passages from Genesis 7-8

If you caught the math, Noah and his family were on the boat a little less than **13 months**. Can you imagine that?

First Noah was not a trained carpenter, but God asked him to build the ark. Then Noah and his family were not trained sailors either, and God asked them to crew the ark by themselves for over a year.

This week I reached out to 2 Navy guys to learn a little bit more about what it is really like to be on a ship for a long period of time.

- When you are deployed (on the ship) there really is no off time or down time. It's a 24/7/365 job.
- You do what you can to stay sane
- There is a distinct odor on submarines and even ships above the water.
- The concept of "getting your sea legs" is very real.

What caused Noah fear, and how did Noah react to that fear?

1. Gen 7:4 God said **"Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created."**
 - a. God's hatred of **sin** should scare us, but never should we think that God hates us because of it.
 - b. The major question for all of us is then "how do we react to fear?"

c. Noah reacted by "obeying God's word and doing **everything** that God told him to do"

d. The same holds true for us, when God speaks, we need to trust Him and obey!

2. The constant fear of death, unrest, or pain that comes from uncertainty.

a. God never had tried to kill all life on earth before, so other than what God directly told him, Noah had no idea what to expect.

b. Our world has been to a lesser degree but similar to Noah. Let's see if we reacted the same way Noah did.

c. Noah's faith was shown again in his **trust** of God.

d. Nowhere in our story does Noah complain, or argue with God, he just did what God told him to do.

e. We should learn that even though we don't know what is going on at all times, God does, and we should continue to trust him even if it means a year on a stinky ship.

3. What if God goes back on **His Word**?

a. Because we can't physically see God this fear has come over everyone at least once in our lives.

b. How did Noah react to this fear? After being on the ark for 13 months, the first thing he did after being on dry land was give God a sacrifice (Gen 8:20-21)

c. Noah didn't complain about the 13 months in an ark with all of those animals, he didn't give God a piece of his mind; instead he reacted with gratitude giving God a sacrifice for saving him and his family from the global destruction.

d. God has never gone back on his word and the rainbow is proof of that for us every time it rains

Challenge: Take a moment and look **inside yourself** and see how you react to fear.

There are hundreds of bad ways of reacting to fear; anger, paralyzation, lying to ourselves, lying to others, not dealing with it, or trying to overcome it by our own sheer will.

But the only good and faithful reaction to fear is to trust God and obey His word. Trust is an **attitude**, and obedience is a **choice**.

You don't have to be a **Pastor** to trust God and obey, you can grow closer to him no matter what he has called you to. You just need to have the right trusting attitude, and choose to obey him.

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 - b. The major question for all of us is then "how do we react to fear?"

- c. Noah reacted by "obeying God's word and doing _____ that God told him to do"
 - d. The same holds true for us, when God speaks, we need to trust Him and obey!
5. The constant fear of death, unrest, or pain that comes from uncertainty.
 - a. God never had tried to kill all life on earth before, so other than what God directly told him, Noah had no idea what to expect.
 - b. Our world has been to a lesser degree but similar to Noah. Let's see if we reacted the same way Noah did.
 - c. Noah's faith was shown again in his _____ of God.
 - d. Nowhere in our story does Noah complain, or argue with God, he just did what God told him to do.
 - e. We should learn that even though we don't know what is going on at all times, God does, and we should continue to trust him even if it means a year on a stinky ship.
 6. What if God goes back on _____?
 - a. Because we can't physically see God this fear has come over everyone at least once in our lives.
 - b. How did Noah react to this fear? After being on the ark for 13 months, the first thing he did after being on dry land was give God a sacrifice (Gen 8:20-21)
 - c. Noah didn't complain about the 13 months in an ark with all of those animals, he didn't give God a piece of his mind; instead he reacted with gratitude giving God a sacrifice for saving him and his family from the global destruction.
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