

Sermon Title: Sinners in the Hands of a Grieving God

Sermon Text: Genesis 6:5-14, 7:1-6; 7:17-8:22; 9:12-16

We have arrived on this journey thru Genesis, at a story many of us probably remember from Sunday school - the story of Noah & the flood (Genesis 6-9)!

But if it has been that long since you've heard it, then the Scriptures we will read this morning might sound a little different than the way you remember it! **This story is far more than just a story about a floating zoo on the water!**

This is a story about... the wicked state of mankind, the grieving heart of our Creator, the necessary judgment upon sin, a covenant making/keeping God!

We often sidestep these points of the story because... we think kids are too young to hear it, the story raises too many questions, our interests lie elsewhere

The flood story does raise a lot of questions for people like... but those aren't the questions the Biblical account of the flood sets out to answer!

God seems more interested in answering a different set of questions:

- **"What is the condition of man's heart?"**
- **"How is God Himself affected by man's sin, & what will He do about it?"**
- **"Why was Noah & his family spared from God's judgment on the earth?"**
- **"Can the destruction of all creation, by a flood, fix the problem?"**

Let's read a portion of these chapters in Genesis 6-9, & see how God answers these questions! **Genesis 6:5-14, 7:1-6; 7:17-8:22; 9:12-16**

What did you hear in these verses? How does God answer these questions?

- **The condition of man's heart - Is it basically good or thoroughly evil?**

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." 6:5

I was asked this question in seminary - *"Is there any choice/decision that a person can ever make that comes from a completely pure/holy motivation?"*

We aren't just sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners!
Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure/desperately sick/desperately wicked; who can understand it?"

The only hope we have is a new heart - That's the good news of the gospel!
Ezekiel 36:26 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

- **Is God indifferent, angry, or grieved by man's sin? Ch. 6 Vs. 6 - "the Lord regretted that He made man on the earth, & it grieved Him to his heart!"**

Have we ever thought about our sin in such ways? When I was growing up, if I messed up, I could handle the anger of my parents/teacher/boss, but when I knew I disappointed them it wrecked me! **Our sin grieves the heart of God!**

And in that grief, God not only regretted creating mankind but He also brought destruction upon the earth because of it! That leads to the next ?

- **Was this worldwide flood, that wiped out all creation, warranted? We can't really answer that question as the offender - the guilty party doesn't get to dictate the sentence! The judge makes that decision!**

And God is more than just a "just" judge, He is Holy, and sin is an offense against His supreme holiness! **God's just judgment was to start over!**

"So the Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the land, man & animals, creeping things & birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." 6:7-8

- **Why was Noah & his family spared? Was he not also a sinner like the rest of mankind worthy of the same sentence? Why was he the exception?**

Sin infected the heart of Noah as well! But didn't God call him a **"righteous man"** and **"blameless"** (vs.9)? Yes... but read the end of vs. 8 again!

Vs. 8 - "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." That Hebrew word for "favor" is the same Hebrew word for "grace". Noah was looked upon by God with favor because God was looking at him thru the eyes of His grace.

"Righteous" & "blameless" must have meant something other than "without sin" because God would not contradict what He already declared about the all-inclusive, pervasive, & continuous nature of sin in the heart of man!

Maybe Noah, was looked upon by God in the same way God looked upon David, when **He declared David to be "a man after His own heart"!**

What is certain is that God chose not to destroy every human being as a result of mankind's sin, but to spare one man & his family, so that He could start over again (the animals also being included in this preserving of all life).

What is also certain is that God is a covenant... **making, signifying, & keeping** God! And that is where our hope in this new beginning is found! **9:12-16**

Sermon Title: Sinners in the Hands of a Grieving God

Sermon Text: Genesis 6:5-14, 7:1-6; 7:17-8:22; 9:12-16

We have arrived on this journey thru Genesis, at a story many of us probably remember from Sunday school - the story of Noah & the flood (Genesis 6-9)!

But if it has been that long since you've heard it, then the Scriptures we will read this morning might sound a little different than the way you remember it! This story is far more than just a story about a _____ on the water!

This is a story about... the wicked state of mankind, the grieving heart of our Creator, the necessary judgment upon sin, a covenant making/keeping God!

We often sidestep these points of the story because... we think kids are too young to hear it, the story raises too many questions, our interests lie elsewhere

The flood story does raise a lot of _____ for people like... but those aren't the questions the Biblical account of the flood sets out to answer!

God seems more interested in answering a different set of questions:

- "What is the condition of _____?"
- "How is God Himself affected by man's sin, & what will He do about it?"
- "Why was Noah & his family spared from God's judgment on the earth?"
- "Can the destruction of all creation, by a flood, _____?"

Let's read a portion of these chapters in Genesis 6-9, & see how God answers these questions! **Genesis 6:5-14, 7:1-6; 7:17-8:22; 9:12-16**

What did you hear in these verses? How does God answer these questions?

- *The condition of man's heart - Is it basically _____ or thoroughly _____?*

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." 6:5

I was asked this question in seminary - *"Is there any choice/decision that a person can ever make that comes from a completely pure/holy motivation?"*

We aren't just sinners because we sin, we sin because we are _____!
Jeremiah 17:9 – "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure/desperately sick/desperately wicked; who can understand it?"

The only hope we have is a _____ – That's the good news of the gospel!
Ezekiel 36:26 – "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

- *Is God indifferent, angry, or _____ by man's sin? Ch. 6 Vs. 6 - "the Lord regretted that He made man on the earth, & it grieved Him to his heart!"*

Have we ever thought about our sin in such ways? When I was growing up, if I messed up, I could handle the anger of my parents/teacher/boss, but when I knew I disappointed them it wrecked me! Our sin grieves the _____!

And in that grief, God not only regretted creating mankind but He also brought destruction upon the earth because of it! That leads to the next ?

- *Was this worldwide flood, that wiped out all creation, warranted?*
We can't really answer that question as the _____ – the guilty party doesn't get to dictate the sentence! The judge makes that decision!

And God is more than just a "just" judge, He is Holy, and sin is an offense against His supreme holiness! God's just judgment was to _____!

"So the Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the land, man & animals, creeping things & birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." 6:7-8

- *Why was Noah & his family spared? Was he not also a sinner like the rest of mankind worthy of the same sentence? Why was he the _____?*

Sin infected the heart of Noah as well! But didn't God call him a **"righteous man"** and **"blameless"** (vs.9)? Yes... but read the end of vs. 8 again!

Vs. 8 – "But Noah found _____ in the eyes of the Lord." That Hebrew word for "favor" is the same Hebrew word for "grace". Noah was looked upon by God with favor because God was looking at him thru the eyes of His grace.

"Righteous" & "blameless" must have meant something other than "without sin" because God would not contradict what He already declared about the all-inclusive, pervasive, & continuous nature of sin in the heart of man!

Maybe Noah, was looked upon by God in the same way God looked upon David, when He declared David to be *"a man after His _____!"*

What is certain is that God chose not to destroy every human being as a result of mankind's sin, but to spare one man & his family, so that He could start over again (the animals also being included in this preserving of all life).

What is also certain is that God is a covenant... _____, _____, & _____ God! And that is where our hope in this new beginning is found! **9:12-16**