

Sunday Leftovers

Sermon Title: This Is Us – Our Crazy Uncle

What's this message about?

What comes to mind when you think of the story of Noah's Ark? When we tell it as a children's story we often focus on God's saving of hundreds of animals and tend to not notice who the author of the flood was. When we read the story on its own, it can actually be a bit unnerving because it appears to portray God as a harsh, unforgiving taskmaster. One tends to seek a "feel good" aspect and ignore the possibility that a loving God would allow such a thing, and the other gives God no credit and seems to strip Him of all compassion and mercy. Might there be more to this story? When we take the time to dig deeper we find that there is an underlying narrative that helps illuminate God's purpose in this story? The underlying narrative is of a God who loves mankind so much that He is unwilling to allow them to take His creation down the path to ultimate destruction. So what does God do? He allows us a redo by hitting the reset button.

Questions for discussion:

- *What do you think was the main point of Matt's message?*
- *Read Genesis 9:1-17: What lesson(s) do we learn from God's interactions with Noah? What does this teach us about who God is?*
- *What part does God's role in the "flood story" play in who we are, today?*
- *How can knowing "who we were" help us to become a better "who we are?"*

Do something about it: All of our lives have clutter and things we rarely use in them (like the junk drawer). The unfortunate thing is that many of these things (activities, routines, grudges, etc.) take up space and time. Since Lent is a time to consider the concept of redemption, take a few moments to consider what in your life may need to be de-created and re-created according to God's purpose and plan. Jesus offers us an opportunity for rebirth. Have you accepted His offer yet?

Digging deeper: Genesis 9:1-17; John 3:1-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3