

Send It - Week 5

Fear and Faith - Ben Foote

March 20, 2022

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Genesis 6:8-22; Proverbs 14:27; Romans 11:5; Hebrews 11:7.

// Message Summary

This Sunday was our fifth and final week of *Send It*, our current series on faith. Faith in God is the confidence that God is Who He says He is, and assurance that He will keep every promise He ever made to us. Faith begins with humbling ourselves, leads us to active obedience to His word, and drives us to show up at the battlefield whenever the time to fight comes. Pastor Ben's finale was on the inseparable connection between fear and faith, illustrated by the biblical story of Noah and his family. Noah feared God (he had a respect for God's power), so he placed his faith in God (he followed God's instructions to build and take refuge in the ark). In His wisdom and compassion, God warns us of the actions and events that are going to bring us destruction, and He provides instruction on how to avoid these pitfalls and build a better life. Like Noah, our best possible choice is to listen to His guidance, place our faith in His direction, and get to work building the (metaphorical) boat on behalf of ourselves, our families and our families-to-come.

// Biblical and Historical Context

The remarkable story of Noah and his ark, as found in Genesis 6, is likely to be familiar even to those who do not profess the Christian faith. The events covered in Genesis 1-11 (Creation to Abraham) are regarded as primeval history: the very earliest age in the history of the world. This makes pinpointing an exact date and location for this event incredibly difficult, and answers to these questions should be regarded as estimations at best. According to the timeline presented in Genesis 5 and 6, Noah was 7 generations from Adam. Despite his long life (930 years), Adam would have passed away shortly (relatively speaking) before Noah was born. The generations still alive during Noah's time were, according to Genesis 6:5, exceedingly wicked: "every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually." Their society had become one of savage violence, cruelty, oppression and injustice (verse 13). Their untamed and ruthless behavior had

seemingly even tainted creation, for even the earth had become 'corrupt' (verse 12). Nature itself was literally 'rotting' and 'ruined'. Humanity - who God had created in His beautiful image - had degraded to the point of complete social meltdown, and it brought great grief to His heart (verse 6). The act of the flood, seen by some to be an act of vengeance, was really an act of compassion. God was removing our extreme wickedness and violence, and allowing the human race to start afresh.

// Community Questions

1. If you were loading the ark with animals, which one would you have come on board first, and why?
2. What really makes you angry?

// Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Genesis 6:5-13. What questions come to your mind?
2. How does the Bible describe Noah's life and values, compared to the life and values of his generation?
3. Ben said, "When we're faced with a dilemma, we must choose which of our fears we are going to respect the most."

What does he mean by this? Can you give an example to support your views?

4. Hebrews 11 is known as the chapter about the heroes of faith. The pattern of the chapter is, "By faith [insert name here], did [insert actions here]."

What might it look like to insert your name and circumstance into this chapter? What actions of faith, past or future, would you want to have written about you?

5. The story of the flood ends with God bringing Noah's family to safety, blessing them, and instructing them to again "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 9:1). What can we learn about God through this very unique intervention in human history?

// Challenge

Think about your response to question four, and in particular an act of faith that you have not yet put into motion, but know you should. Write it here:

By faith, _____, _____ .
(insert your name) *(insert the action)*

What is your first step towards this act of faith?