

A century ago, a band of brave souls became known as one-way missionaries. They purchased single tickets to the mission field without the return half. And instead of suitcases, they packed their few earthly belongings into coffins. As they sailed out of port, they waved good-bye to everyone they loved, everything they knew. They knew they'd never return home.

The will of God is not an insurance plan. It's a daring plan. The complete surrender of our lives to the cause of Christ isn't radical. It's normal. It's time to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death. It's time to go all in and all out for the All in All. Let us pack our coffins!

September 10, 2017

ALL IN (1)

Now or Never: Pack Your Coffin

Genesis 6:9-22

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Have you ever play card games? There are many different kinds of games and they are fun family activities. What about playing Poker? I once learned how to play and soon forgot, as I didn't play often. When I watched The World Series of Poker on ESPN, I had no idea of the game. But the interesting moment for me was when the players pushed their chips to the middle of the table. It is an exciting moment when a player pushes all the chips he has to the middle of the table.

Have you pushed all your chips to the middle of the table? Have you gone all in with God or are you holding out? Is there some part of you that you are withholding from God? Here is my prayer for this series – that all of us would go all in. Can you imagine a church where everybody is all in? If you are all in relationally and missionally and financially and spiritually, if you go all in, is there anything that we could not accomplish for God? Where everybody is just all in with each other and with God, I believe that is what God has called us to.

Some of you are not experiencing the power, the joy, the intimacy that God wants you to experience in a relationship with Him for one simple reason – you are holding something out. If you would go all in, oh, your relationship with God could radically change.

2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ went all in. He went to the cross and died in your place. He didn't hold anything back and we are called to follow his way. God went all in, we are called to go all in. At some point, we would have an all-in moment; we would have a moment where God would reveal something that we need to put on the table, that we need to push to the middle of the table and that we would go all in.

During the next 4 weeks we are going to explore the stories of those who went all in. They all look very different, but I think there is a unique inspiration from each of these stories that will challenge us to go all in. Today, we are going to start with Noah.

Genesis 6:6 says that God was grieved or regretted because of the sins of humans. His heart was deeply grieved. There are two kinds of sin that grieve God. One is the sin of commission. This is doing something that you should not have done. It grieves God when we do something we should not have done. But the other is the sin of omission. This is not doing something that you could have or should have done.

So we need to understand that God's plans and purposes for us are so far beyond what we can even begin to imagine. And it grieves Him when we settle for sin, because He knows who we can become. He knows our potential because He gave it to us and He wants us to become that person that He has destined us to be. The sin of omission is we missed doing something because we hold back and because we are not all in. The sin of omission is just not going all in with God. Are you holding something back? Are you holding something out? Is there something that you have not gone all in with God?

I want to talk about what Noah did. I think it is remarkable. What would you do if God said build a boat? This is a pretty big deal. They didn't have floods. Yet he was obedient and built the boat. In fact, he did everything just as God commanded him. It's not like Noah built the boat overnight. In fact, according to one Jewish tradition, Noah didn't just start building the ark. He planted trees first, waited until they grew and cut them down and sawed them into planks and then built the boat. That's one tradition, but whether that's true or not, it was a long process. This didn't happen overnight. So I think part of what I want us to understand is going all in. I know, there is

a moment, a one-time decision where you make a decision, to follow Jesus Christ, where you bow the knee to the Lordship of Christ and say my life belongs to You. But it doesn't stop there. We are all in all the time. It is taking up our crosses daily and following Christ. And I think that's what Noah did. It is not just a one-time deal.

At the end of your life, do you think you're going to look back on the easiest day? Maybe every once in a while you look back at a day on a Bahama beach, yes! Awesome, go for it! But if every day you are laying out on the beach, you have an unsatisfying life because it is too easy. When you look back on your life, it is going to be the hard things, the impossible things that you went after in the name of Christ that He gave you the power to do it. Those are going to be the greatest days of your life.

If we are too comfortable, then something needs to happen. We need a big vision from God that will make us uncomfortable so we can step out into the purposes that God has for us.

I believe sin will complicate our lives in a way that we don't want it to be complicated. But I also believe that the blessings of God will complicate our lives, but it will do it in a way that we want our lives to be complicated.

The day I married Esther, my life got complicated! Praise God! Praise God for the complications that it has brought into my life. From that time on, Esther and I have three complications named Kristine, Sarah, and Eunice. It got more complicated as they got involved in more things in their schools, church activities, and community services. I felt like we never stopped going, here, there and everywhere. I've heard that the more money you make, the more complicated your taxes are. God doesn't want it to get easier; He wants it to get harder. He wants it to get more complicated but in a way that glorifies God.