

Westfield Sermon notes

Title: One size doesn't fit all

Readings: Genesis 6:9ff

Preacher: Hilary Chorley

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This sermon can be found at: <http://www.westfieldurc.org/worship/sermons>

Sermon Notes / Comments:

- That song we have just song (*Great is the darkness that covers the earth*) seems to sum things up in the world up at the moment! Some of the words are a bit emotive – watching while sanity dies! When people are driving vans and trucks into crowds of people on purpose. Insane
- So what can we do? As sanity seems to be dying all around us? And we are in the darkness!
- We have to be the light
- In our sketch earlier 'one size fits all' was proven to be wrong. Not in clothes or anything else. However we can use that to 'our advantage'!
- We at Holme don't have a Sunday School, we keep wondering why? We say 'we have not got a Sunday school because we have not got any children'. or maybe it is we haven't got any children because we haven't a Sunday School!? Maybe you haven't got any children because you haven't got a Sunday School?
- If some families turned up next week what would we do with them? Would they come back the following week?
- John Rider (our Pastor) has moved into the Manse. He is a keen gardener and has moved all his plants from his old house. He also keeps fish however he couldn't bring his fish until the fish pond was really and full of water. First, he had to build a pond and make it ready then he could bring the fish. Perhaps the problem is if we are not ready they won't come!
- Have you seen the RSPB advert <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LEm0OgWmzU> if you build it, they will come?
- We have to be ready! This is not just about children. It is all sorts of people.
- We read in Ephesians 4 that people have different gifts, called to be different things. It goes on to say that not all are teachers, apostles, evangelists etc. That is great isn't it? It lets us of the hook, we don't have to evangelise as we are not evangelist (or that is not our gifting). Or perhaps

- we should have a healing service, but hold on we haven't got someone with healing gifts! Or Prophecy... or Apostles etc
- We have not got these, or have we? It is a bit of a get out!
 - The story of the running ducks. Ducks can run but they are better at swimming!
 - So if there are things we don't want to do we can say it is not my calling! My gift! When we look at the Bible we are told we are one body and we each have a role. We know people who have had an accident and lost some function, however often other areas take over, and get stronger!
 - Story about the concert pianist on the radio who only has one hand.
 - For the sake of the Kingdom sometimes we have to do things that we are not brilliant at. Sometimes we have to be a running duck! Until someone comes along that is better!
 - The other side of the coin is 'what are you doing that someone else can do and what aren't you doing that only you can do?'
 - Sometimes we have to step outside our comfort zone and do things that may seem a bit odd. Noah for example. He lives in a place where it doesn't rain a lot and he was told to build an ark. He was almost certainly more use to farming! But he had to turn his hand to building an ark!
 - At Holme we had to go out on to the streets of Holme Wood giving out chocolates, flowers and hugs! They saw amazing results.
 - This is out of our comfort zones, who wants to do that!? but we did! I am not an evangelist!
 - So what is the point of getting your Sunday school ready? Maybe you need to be a running duck? You need to get your pond ready before the 'fish go in'. Who is going out next week? What are you doing for the younger adults? What was the point of Noah building the Ark?
 - We don't need all the singing and dancing gizmos we just need to love and to step out. A candle lights up the darkness however small - Great is the darkness that covers the earth. You are the light of the world!

Questions / thoughts and areas for discussion

- Read through all the passages mentioned in the sermon.
- What is your Ark? What is it that God is calling you to?
- What can you use for the Lord? For the Church?
- What do we need to build before they come?
- Do we make excuses? Do we say that is not me?
- When was the last time you were seriously out of your comfort zone?
- What are you doing that someone else can do better or what aren't you doing that only you can do?

Please note these are Mark's thoughts, comments etc on the sermon and may not be the Preacher's!