

About That Flood...

The story is told of an old minister who survived the great Johnstown flood. He loved to tell the story over and over, usually in great detail. Everywhere he went, all he talked about was this great historic event in his life. Eventually, he died and went to heaven. Arriving in that celestial place, he attended a meeting of saints who had gathered to share their life experiences. The old minister was very excited about the opportunity to address a new crowd. He ran to ask Saint Peter if he might relate the adventurous story of his survival of the Johnstown flood.

Peter hesitated for a moment and then said, "Yes, you may share, but just remember that Noah will be in the audience tonight."

It is a sobering thought with application for us. When we tell the tales of our lives, it is always wise to remember that there may be at least two people hidden somewhere in your audience: someone who was there – an eyewitness – and someone who has had a similar experience, but on a much greater scale.

The best recourse is always to tell one's experience as truthfully as possible. A person's credibility, and reputation, are at stake.

The trouble with stretching the truth, you see, is that it is apt to snap back.

--Beecher Hunter