

Judges, Sermon #43

Judges 14

In Judges 13, we got to see the miraculous birth of Samson.
The Bible provides for us Samson's entire life—from birth to death.

Samson was a child with unbelievable promise.
Samson is one of the most famous characters in the Old Testament (chapters 13-16).
Samson had been called by God to a very special ministry, and he had been born with
great hope and expectation.

I've entitled tonight's message "Samson's Selfishness"

Judges 14:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

Judges 14:1-4

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Samson's Selfishness

Samson was in a category all of his own.

Endowed with the Spirit of the Lord and dedicated to a lifelong Nazirite vow, his life seems to have centered around (revolved around) illicit relationships with prostitutes and loose-living women.

Samson loved heathen and unbelieving women, and he would eventually allow them to control his life and squander his potential.

Women became his downfall.

So far as is known, the only Godly woman involved in his life was his mother.

But the other women with whom he associated led to his downfall.

Three such women played a role in Samson's life: the woman of Timnah, the harlot/prostitute of Gaza, and Delilah of the Valley of Sorek.

If we removed the Biblical stories around these women, not much of Samson's life would be left in the Scriptures.

Samson's involvement with these women greatly limited his potential service for the Lord and caused an early end to his work and his life.

Samson was known for his strength, but actually he was very weak because he had no self-control.

True strength is not determined by how much weight you can lift.

It is discipline and control over our actions, attitudes, and appetites.

Tonight and future Wednesday nights, we will be looking at Samson as an example to us—of how low morals/low standards in a Christian's life can be devastating.

Low ideals/morals/ standards have always plagued God's people.

God demands "morality" of His people—holiness, high standards, separation

I Thessalonians 2:12, *“That ye would walk [live] worthy of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory.”*

Ephesians 5:8, *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk [or, live] as children of light.”*

Philippians 1:27, *“Only let your conversation [conduct] be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.”*

Romans 8:1b, *“. . . walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Everyone in here has a testimony.

Are low morals, low ideals, and low standards afflicting our life so that we do not reach our potential for the Lord?

So that we are not a good testimony for Christ? I hope not.

So, from the very beginning of adulthood, Samson’s private life was a disaster. Samson was controlled by his flesh.

Galatians 5:16, *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

Galatians 6:8, *“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*

Samson’s selfishness (sin nature) was manifested in several ways.

First of all, Samson went down to Timnah (vs. 1a).

Timnah was a village about three miles southwest of Samson’s hometown.

Verse 1 reveals steps in the wrong direction as Samson not only travels downward geographically, but also spiritually.

Timnah was a border town—it was an unbelieving city, heathen city

Judah in Genesis 38 made a visit to Timnah, and Tamar, dressed in prostitute clothes, awaited his arrival.

Samson is going places and visiting places where he should not be.

Vs. 1, wrong decision leads to wrong direction—wrong places, wrong people

The places we go are important.

There are places we should visit and places we should not visit.

The wise person knows the difference.

While Samson is checking out the city of Timnah, he sees a “cute chick”—a Philistine filly.

#2 – Samson saw a woman (vs. 1)—she is an enemy.

Samson became infatuated with a woman in Timnah.

Samson was captivated by a Philistine woman and decided to marry her.

This, of course, was contrary to God's Law

Wives were not to be taken from among the idolatrous people of the land.

Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-3

Not to give your daughters to them in marriage

Not to give your sons to them in marriage.

Samson was living by sight and not by faith.

He was controlled by “the lust of the eyes” (1 John 2:16) rather than by the Law of the Lord.

He was being driven by “the lust of the flesh,” not by love for the Lord.

Samson was disobeying the Word of the Lord, breaking the clear commandments of God.

The courting of an unbeliever cannot be commended at all.

Samson's choice for a wife is based upon what he saw.

The priority of Samson's life was, how can I please myself—selfishness.

The important thing to Samson was not pleasing the Lord, or even pleasing his parents,
but pleasing himself (Judges 14:3e, 7c)

II Corinthians 5:15, *“And that He [Jesus Christ] died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.”*

The Bible tells us we ought to live for Christ.

“She pleased him” literally means “was right in the eyes of Samson.”

The downward path continues.

Vs. 2

Samson's demand “Get her for me!” was a demand to mix with that which was
forbidden, unclean, and unholy.

Samson asked his parents because the custom of that day was that the parents did the
negotiating.

It is wise to involve your parents in your courting and marriage decisions.

They see things in a person's character that you might not see.

Get their advice, counsel, wisdom, and blessing.

Samson was not asking for counsel. He was giving commands

“Get her for me!” His demand reveals his disrespect for his parents

Now, Samson's parents protest his demands (vs. 3a).

His parents strongly objected to the marriage because the woman was an unbeliever.

The term “uncircumcised Philistine” was a term of reproach and contempt.

Circumcision was the mark that a person believed in the Lord, trusted and followed Him. The Lord had given the mark of circumcision to His people as a symbol of their faith, that a person was a true Israelite.

His parents called sin . . . sin.

Evil needs to be labeled correctly—if we are to oppose it effectively.

Abortion—It is called “pro-choice.” It’s no choice; it’s murder!

Alcoholism—It’s called a disease. God calls it drunkenness.

Adultery—It is called a fling or extra marital relationship. God calls it wickedness, shame, and reproach.

Homosexuality—It is called an alternate lifestyle. God calls it an abomination.

The parents protest but Samson shoves their counsel aside (vs. 3e).

He rejects their leadership and authority.

The greatest conflicts of today are being fought on the battlefield of authority.

The authority of Scripture is being challenged and rejected because it reveals our need for Christ and obedience to God.

Samson rejected his parent's authority.

Many people are like Samson in their disrespect for good, sanctified, counseling about romance.

They won't listen to experience but only to emotion.

Their concern is not about teaching, but the temptation.

They will not listen to reasoning, but are only consumed with their rights and relationship.

People like this will hardly listen to anyone who has any common sense.

They won't listen to parents or pastors.

They don't care if the boy or girl is a rebel, renegade, or a reprobate.

They don't care if the person is repulsive, revolting, or rotten.

They are determined to get their own way and do what they want to do.

They may get their own way now but someday they will loathe their own disrespectful ways.

The cry of their heart will be, "Why didn't I listen!"

When, we shun wisdom, we will be shunned by blessing.

Samson's parents stood with the Word of God.

Parents are always wise to support the position of the Bible.

This world thinks the Bible is stupid, foolish, ridiculous, impractical and harsh.

God's way, however, works!

Where do you find a Christian wife or husband?

Don't look in the Timnachs of this world or in dens of iniquity.

The honky tonks, dance halls, disco's, beer parties, etc., are not the places to look for a dedicated, Godly wife or husband because truly dedicated Christians don't go to such activities.

Look in the right places like church or church type activities, Bible colleges, Bible studies, etc.

When our decisions for a spouse are based upon sight only instead of Biblical principles of Godliness and character, then we are on a downward path.

Fantasy will be replaced with reality after you are married—"I should have never married this person!"

"I would have never married them if I knew they were like this!"

If looks were good enough for a marriage, then why are so many of Hollywood's Glamour Girls and Beauty Boys struggling to stay married?

Walking by sight is a weak foundation for a long-term relationship.

Now, beauty is not sinful, but outward beauty must never become more important than inward beauty.

Inward beauty is beauty of the soul; of a holy relationship with God; of virtue, righteousness, and character.

He demanded that his parents arrange for the marriage.

His parents protested in vain against Samson's request.

Samson would not be denied.

So, a parent/child relationship is seen.

Samson's parents could not understand why their son would violate the great trust God had put in him (vs. 3).

Samson's demand broke their hearts, causing pain and disappointment.

Samson showed the utmost insensitivity and disrespect for his parents.

Samson was not listening to his parents—they were good parents, Godly parents, parents that tried to raise him right.

Yet, he selfishly, emphatically insisted that they arrange for the marriage.

Note Samson's insistent reason: "She is the one I want, the right one for me"

Note the prediction (vs. 4): the Lord would override, twist, and turn Samson's selfishness/compromising sin and use it for good.

God would overrule by causing trouble between Samson and the Philistines, arousing Samson to punish and execute justice upon the Philistines.

When God isn't permitted to rule in our lives, He overrules and works out His will in spite of our decisions.

Of course, we're the losers for rebelling against Him; but God will accomplish His purposes either with us or in spite of us.

Esther 4:10-14—Esther—deliverance will arise from another place.

God knows Samson will be able to begin but not be able to complete the job (Judges 13:5).

God-appointed task—Samson began to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines. He was a beginner, not a finisher.

He began to deliver Israel, but he never finished the task.

Samson would start to shake up the Philistines but would not finish the job.

This task would not be completed until David's reign.

Because of this event, Samson killed thirty men (Jud. 14:19), burned up the enemy crops (15:1-5), slaughtered a great number of Philistines (vv. 7-8), and slew 1,000 men (v. 15). Samson hadn't planned these things, but God worked them out just the same.

“God's purposes will be accomplished in spite of my disobedience, but I can never use His purpose to endorse my disobedience.”

You don't reach drunkards for Christ by becoming a drunk.

You don't reach harlots by having relationships with them.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Ephesians 5:11, *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”*

Rear of Document

Psalm 106:15, *“And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”*

The Lord had given Samson a godly heritage, and he had been raised to honor the Lord; but when Samson fell in love, he wouldn't listen to his parents when they warned him.

Lust is a good desire out of control.