

Judges, Sermon #44

Judges 14

Right out of the gate, Samson is heading in the wrong direction.

His eyes are on a Philistine woman, and he has demanded that his parents get her for him.

I've entitled tonight's message "Samson's Selfishness, Part 2"

Judges 14:5

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

Judges 14:5-9

Let us pray

You may be seated

Samson's Selfishness

Samson continues to go down.

This is mentioned three times in seven verses (v. 1, 5, 7).

He would go down geographically, but he was also going down spiritually.

Samson's path is a reminder of Jonah's journey.

Jonah went down to Joppa, down into the ship heading to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3), down to the bottom of the sea.

Samson and Jonah both rebelled against God.

And, their rebellion against God spiritually pulled them down.

Rebellion against God always leads downward.

The world would say, "It's alright—everybody's doing it!"

As Christians, we cannot trust unbelievers to tell us what direction we should be going.

This world does not know what direction it is heading.

The mentality of this world is confusion and chaos.

Their up is God's down and God's down is the world's up.

Our standard for decisions is not to be based upon society's opinions, but upon the Word of God.

This is the reason Samson's parents protested their son's choice of a woman in vs. 3, because it was contrary to God's Word; she was a Philistine/heathen.

Their protest, however, was without power.

Samson's parents argued against the sin, but then went along with it.

They opposed the marriage and Samson's disobedience, but they gave way to it eventually.

They went down to Timnah, too (vs. 5).

These parents gave in to their child.

It is no blessing to give to children that which is contrary to the Word of God.

Parents are not winning them over by letting them, supporting them in unbiblical decisions.

Parents are setting them up for great failure.

In verse 5, Samson and his parents are headed down to Timnah to get him a wife.

They all are going down.

During the trip, he abandoned his parents to go hiking in the vineyards.

When Samson and his parents went down to Timnah to make arrangements for the marriage, it appears that Samson left the main road and his parents and went on a detour into the vineyards.

He could have at least walked with them.

Leaving his parents demonstrated disrespect and discourtesy toward them.

Samson had been rebellious and rude by rejecting the counsel of his parents, acting ungrateful, and barking out orders to them.

All of these practices are common traits of a rebellious person such as Samson.

Rebels have little grace, little appreciation and no respect for proper things.

Rebels lack kindness and common courtesy.

A rebellious attitude like Samson's will destroy your life.

Rebellion . . .

- * **Robs** us of God's blessings.
- * **Ruins** our testimony for Christ.
- * **Ripens** our heart for sinful pleasures.
- * **Raids** our mind with bitterness.
- * **Releases** defiant thoughts toward God.
- * **Rears** a miserable future.
- * **Recommends** we live for ourself.
- * **Rewards** us with misery and unhappiness.
- * **Reduces** our ability to discern spiritual truths from God's Word.
- * **Rejects** those who are concerned about us.
- * **Resists** friendships of Godly believers.
- * **Replaces** God's authority with self authority.

- * **Revives** old sinful habits we once had victory over.
- * **Rushes** us into making hasty life changing decisions.

Samson had a rebellious streak.

We find him in a place he does not belong—he is in the vineyards of Timnah (vs. 5).

A vineyard was a dangerous place for a man who was not supposed to have anything to do with grapes (Num. 6:1-4).

Samson shows his unconcern for the law of God by going to places where temptation abounds.

He persisted to flirt with evil by living in a reckless and thoughtless manner.

Danger was on the path of rebellion.

Samson is attacked by a young lion (vs. 6).

Young lions are extremely powerful beasts weighing four to five hundred pounds.

The grasp of the claws can cut four inches deep, strong enough to break the vertebrae of an ox.

The lion is a great reminder of Satan. Peter said, “Your adversary the devil, like a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8).

Lions attack the weak, the sickly, and the stragglers.

Satan attacks the spiritually weak and sick, and those who wander from the path of fellowship with God and other believers.

Satan flourishes when the path of obedience is abandoned.

So, if we leave God's path, there will be a lion waiting.

Jonah, Abraham, Lot, and David found out the pain of getting out of God's will/path.

Vs. 6e, vs. 9e

Violating God's Law and disobeying God did not matter that much to Samson.

The result of keeping quiet—Samson did not tell his parents what happened.

Why?

Samson did not want anything to hamper the wedding negotiations.

He knows his parents would be upset for breaking the laws of God.

Let me ask a question here.

Are we keeping any secrets from our parents or spouse that they should know about?

Now, the Holy Spirit gave Samson power to defeat the enemy (vs. 6), but Samson persisted on his path of disobedience into an unlawful wedding.

Vs. 7 – this is the first indication in Scripture that he talked with her.

He only saw her earlier.

Vs. 8

Some weeks later, when Samson returned to claim his bride, he once again turned aside into the vineyard.

He goes back to see the lion he killed and it is filled with bees and honey.

Bees are very jealous of their domain and are irritated with intrusions.

They have a great dislike for strangers.

Knowing the ferocity of bees makes the next verse even more remarkable (vs. 9).

He is eating from the carcass of a dead animal.

Samson was so careless in his commitment to the Lord.

At every turn of his life, he is cutting corners.

He broke his word, the trust that had been placed in him by the Lord.

Why? He is concerned about himself.

Samson's Selfishness

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Are we going down spiritually?

Making decisions that gives us wrong direction? That leads to wrong places and eventually to wrong people?

Are we hiding things from others?

Are we being careless in our decision-making?

In the places we go?

Are we violating the Word of God without concern?