

Judges, Sermon #45

Judges 14 – Samson’s Selfishness carried through his entire life – avenged of my two eyes – Youthful Passions Prevail

Samson, makes a poor choice – wife; parents caved in – wedding being prepared

I’ve entitled tonight’s message “Samson’s Loses More Than a Bet”

Judges 14:10

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

Judges 14:10-16

Let us pray

You may be seated

“Samson Loses More Than a Bet”

Samson should have been going to war. Instead, he was going to a wedding.

- 7 days of feasting and the consummation of the marriage
- He was supposed to be a deliver/Judge, instead he is focused solely on self
- God has a work for him but he is only working for himself

On their way down to Timnah, Samson went to check on the lion he killed earlier.

Vs. 8c – 9

Sinful men are not content to sin alone.

- They always want somebody to join them – “If sinners entice thee, consent thou not” -- Don’t go with them; don’t join them.
- They like to involve others in their sin – Do you know what usually happens? You get caught and they get away.

For Samson, one compromise lead to another

- Taking a Philistine wife, strolling through the vineyards, eating honey from a dead animal.
- When we yield to past temptations, it makes it easier to yield to present temptations.

Sin has a snowball affect upon our lives. Samson was undisciplined and lacked self control.

Vs. 10

Vs. 11

30 so called friends! The influence of this crowd at the feast was not a good one.

To entertain the party, Samson posed a riddle to his thirty Philistines guests, and he added a wager to it.

Vs. 12

Nothing wrong with riddles, but the gambling is going to make it dirty.

The wager was to be thirty linens and thirty embroidered outer garments.

- **The Linen garment** was a soft under garment, in a rectangle size, that went next to the skin.
- **Changes of garments** were costly clothes that were outward robes of the wealthy.
- They were worn at festive occasions and are compared to our suits.

This was a costly wager, involving a good deal of money for both parties.

- The guests had to figure out the riddle within the seven days.

This riddle with a wager reveals Samson's greed for an expensive wardrobe, or his desire for gambling, or he was showing off. None are good.

- Greed is an excessive desire for something.
- Gambling is a product of greed and covetousness.

You will notice that Samson constructed the riddle out of his sinful experience with the dead lion.

- He was able to make a joke out of his sin, showing the depth of his spiritual insensitivity.
- He didn't take seriously the fact that he had violated his Nazarite vows.

It's bad enough to disobey God, but when you make a joke out of it, you've sunk to new lows of spiritual depravity.

Samson's riddle reveals he felt little guilt about the lion and the defiling honey.

- There is no indication of shame over his disobedience.
- It is bad enough when we sin but when there is no guilt or shame, we are in for double trouble.

- This was a problem in Jeremiah's time.

Jeremiah 8:12- ***Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their judgment they shall be cast down, saith the Lord.***

A lack of remorse over our sin reveals a hard heart. When we sin, does it bother us?

Samson is gambling and his heart is available for all of us to see.

- Gambling will not improve our character. It will only weaken it.
- Folks may say, "The government has legalized gambling. There is nothing wrong with the lottery, race-tracks, casinos, bingo-halls, football pools, and poker games."

Beloved, our standards of right and wrong are not based upon the government, but God's word.

- The government has legalized sodomy, abortion, and drunkenness.
- All these activities are still wrong because God says they are wrong!
- Christians are not to be involved in these kinds of things because they destroy our talents, testimony for Christ, and our homes.

Samson's involvement in gambling demonstrates his low morals.

For three days, the guests tried and tried to solve the riddle, but they were unable to come up with the answer. (Vs. 14)

- The guests had no choice, for the wager was very costly.
- They had to pressure Samson's wife in solving the riddle.
- Thus, they approached her and demanded that she coax her husband into explaining the riddle to her.

- They backed up their demand by threatening to kill her and burn her father's house down (Vs. 15).

They were desperate to learn the answer and to solve the riddle.

The unbelieving, Philistine wife nagged and pleaded with Samson to reveal the riddle to her.

- She finally challenged him to show his love by telling her the solution to the riddle (v. 16-17a). Notice that she cried the full seven days.
- This put a big damper on the feast. This was very embarrassing for Samson.
- Samson kept his secret during the entire period. But on the seventh day she succeeded in breaking Samson (Vs. 17b,c).

Samson could kill lions, break ropes, but was vulnerable to the power of a woman's tears.

- He yields to the pressure like all the other temptations he faced.
- He is finding out the folly and shame of marrying the wrong woman.
- He wouldn't listen to his parents or God and now he begins to pay the price.

First the Philistine woman enticed him (Jud. 14:1), then she controlled him (v. 17), and then she betrayed him by telling the men the answer (v. 17).

This is the way the world always treats the compromising believer.

Right before sunset, apparently just a few minutes before the time for solving the riddle was to expire or run out, the guests were able to explain the riddle to Samson (v. 18).

The reaction of Samson was anger.

- He charged the Philistines with breaking the rules by getting the information from his wife.

- Without her help, he knew they could never solve the riddle on their own.

Samson was not planning on losing the bet.

- He thought he had a sure thing. Most gamblers feel that way.
- The Philistines give him the answer and he now has to pay the debt.
- Such is the price of gambling.

“Samson loses more than a bet” Part 1 – On December 3rd we will have part 2

Are we in a snowball with our sins?

Are we hard hearted? We know the truth and yet do it anyway without any remorse?

Are our standards low?

Are we involved with shady people, shady deals, gambling establishments?

Are we compromising ourselves?