

Judges, Sermon #46

Judges 14 – Samson was the 13th – Samson’s problem, selfishness

Last time, Samson was at his 7 day wedding feast and he had put forth a bet with 30 men.

I’ve entitled this two part series: **Samson loses more than a bet – Part 2**

Judges 14:12

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

Judges 14:12-20

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Samson loses more than a bet

Samson calls his wife a heifer because he is describing her, vs. 18. This word meant that she was stubborn and had an untamed spirit. Hosea described Israel this way.

* Hosea 4:16- ***For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer:***

She gave Samson's riddle to the Philistines

- Samson was moved to attack the Philistines but it was for the wrong motivation, to settle a gambling debt.
- He should have attacked under God's direction and for God's glory, God is working through a rebellious man. God is using Samson to accomplish His will. God uses us in spite of us sometimes.

Vs. 19

Samson travels twenty-three miles southwest and kills thirty men stripping them of their clothing and using their clothing to pay the wager. He paid his gambling debt and he is so angry that he goes home.

Samson had to deal with one problem after another with this wrong choice of a mate

- His angry departure was a disgrace to the bride and the father.
- He failed to physically consummate the marriage.
- The daughter was given to the best man of the wedding.
- And Samson is unaware at this point that this has happened.

Samson ignored godly advice about this marriage. His relationship quickly crumbled.

- Relationships that are not based on truth usually do. We learn that it takes more than a pretty face to make a good wife.
- Samson would not listen and now he finds out some hard lessons about the consequences of rebellion.

Now, inside that story is an opportunity to give

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO GAMBLING

The word gambling means to sport, to game, gaming industry but not all games or sports are gambling, but all gambling is basically a game.

- To gamble means ***betting a sum of money on the outcome of an event or to take a risk in the expectation of winning money or material possessions.***
How many of us have ever bet?
- ***Gambling is unnecessarily risking the possessions which God has entrusted to us in games of chance or skill in the hope of gaining something.***

Another way of saying it is ***“gambling is stealing by mutual consent.”***

First, let's look at the recent history of gambling in the U. S.

The floodgates of gambling broke open in 1988 when Indian tribes began to take advantage of a federal law, a loop hole, permitting them to operate casinos because many states had banned gambling.

- Indian tribes are considered sovereign nations.
- Therefore, they are regulated by Federal laws and not State laws.

One fella said, “Being an Native American has never been so popular”

Before this time, casinos existed in Las Vegas, Nevada, best known gambling town in the world, and in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Today casinos are almost everywhere.

- To this date, there are 225 tribes in 28 states operating legal gambling establishments on reservation lands.
- Most of our nation now lives within four hours of a casino.

SECONDLY, THE NATIONAL CRAZE FOR GAMBLING

The number one fantasy of American's today is winning a multi-million dollar lottery.

- In 1994, Americans made more trips to casinos than they did to games of all four major sports leagues combined. Gambling has become the national pastime.
- Today, over 75 percent of Americans gamble.
- This amount is now over half a trillion dollars.

High schools are even scheduling mock casino nights.

- Grandparents are giving their children and grandchildren lottery tickets for their birthdays, Christmas, and graduations.
- We have become consumed with gambling and winning that elusive fortune.

*95% of all Americans have gambled at one time or another

*82% have played the lottery, a crafty link to education, governments golden goose.

Only seven states to not have the lottery

*75% have played slot machines

Poker is one of the latest crazes.

Bingo has invaded churches

Gambling has become a national passion and vice

3. THE CONCERNS ABOUT GAMBLING

A. The Concerns of PREACHERS

*Augustine – “The Devil invented gambling.”

*John Calvin outlawed gambling in Geneva under penalty of fines.

* Martin Luther – “Money won by gambling is not won without self-seeking and love of self, and not without sin. No one gambles with another in order to give away to the other what is his own (for he could do that without gambling), nor in order to lose what is his own, nor in order to seek the gain of the other man as though it were his own. This is why gambling is always contrary to love and is motivated by greed because a man seeks, to the harm of another, what does not belong to him.”

*Boston pastors in 1699 – Lottery agents are pillagers of the people.”

*Charles Spurgeon – “A young gambler is sure to be an old beggar if he lives long enough.”

*D. James Kennedy said, gambling is institutionalized covetousness. It violates the tenth commandment of God. It is the Devil’s delusion.”

B. The Concerns of POLITICIANS

*Six attorney generals from six northeastern states issued a joint statement: “Gambling is not the economic cure-all it purports to be. Rather, gambling is a costly roll of the economic dice which can come up snake eyes.”

*The Florida Department of Law Enforcement...”Casinos are not worth the gamble”

4. CRIME & THE CORRUPTION ASSOCIATED WITH GAMBLING

Within three years of the opening of the first casino, Atlantic City went from 50th to first in the nation in **per-capita crime!**

Casinos and gambling organizations are like magnets that attract criminals to the area or turn desperate people into criminals so they can pay for their gambling debts or get money to satisfy their addiction to gambling.

Gambling leads to crime. It is that simple. Studies done by Gamblers Anonymous said that gambling leads to debt, harassment by creditors, insomnia and stealing.

The results of gambling: Suicide, Spousal abuse, Divorce, Child neglect, Bankruptcy, Embezzlement and so on and so forth.

We lose more than money when we gamble.
--

There is not a verse that says, “Thou shall not gamble.” The Bible does not address gambling explicitly. There are a number of passages, however, that indicate what position Christians should take on this matter.

Some try to justify gambling by pointing to the practice of casting lots in Bible times.

- Lots were used in Old Testament times to determine the will of God.
- The Urim and Thummim (the yes and no stones) were used to make decisions.

The Bible says in Proverbs 16:33... ***The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.***

There was no fate, chance, luck or wagering involved in the casting of lots.

- Lots recognized the sovereignty of God in all things.
- After Pentecost, the casting of lots was never used again as a means of determining the will of God because God had sent the Holy Spirit and has given us His Word to give us direction about knowing His will. Lots are no longer needed.

When the Holy Spirit came there were no more lots.

At the crucifixion of Christ, the soldiers who were casting lots for the robe of Christ were not gambling because no soldier had to pay to play; no one was going to win at another's expense. They were trying to determine who would get the robe. They were more or less “drawing straws.”

So what are some Biblical principles that pertain to gambling?

If someone asked me what was wrong with gambling, I would share the following Bible principles with them.

What the Bible says is what really matters. Amen?

Let me give you 7 principles

1. Gambling is poor stewardship

- All possessions come from the Lord and we are to be wise
- The parable of the talents tells about God entrusting to us – investment.
Gambling just throws away money.

2. Gambling is coveting

Inordinate desire to possess what God has not given plays to our lusts, the BIG payoff.

I Tim. 6:10 – *For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Luke 12:15 – *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

Col. 3:5 – *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; covetousness, which is idolatry. Makes the money a god.*

3. Gambling is addictive – leads to compulsive behaviors

We shouldn't let anything take us captive or be brought under the power

Controlled by the wrong things

I Cor. 6:12 – *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

4. Gambling is associated with alcohol, sexual promiscuity, organized crime, etc.

Ps. 1:1 – *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

Prov. 4:14 – *Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.*

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

Prohibition not to be with those kinds of people

Eph. 5:3 – *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints*

When gambling, a believer is immersed in the culture of the ungodly.

<p>Principle of worldliness and appearance</p>

I Thess. 5:22 – *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

Abhor that which is evil. Not only are we to avert that which is evil, we are to hate it.

Romans 12:9

5. Gambling denies work ethic

Get something for hardly nothing

Eph. 4:28 – *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

Gambling cheapens work!

II Thess. 3:10-12 – *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

Prov. 14:23 – *In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.*

Prov. 15:27 – *He that is greedy for gain troubles his own house*

Prov. 21:5 – *He that is hasty for gain come to nothing*

6. Gambling is a manifestation of greed.

James 1:14-15 – *But every man is tempted, (gambling draws people in, it's seductive) when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

I Tim. 6:6 – *But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

And #7. Gambling produces poverty – it steals from people, children, society, it exploits poor people, targets our senior citizens

The location of our treasure determines the focus of our heart.

The safest bet is the one we don't make. The best throw of the dice is to throw them
away

Samson lost more than a bet.

Let us stand for closing invitation

Evils associated with gambling

Gospel

Man in Hutchinson who was killed with a bat by a man he beat playing poker

Then, the people had a poker tournament to raise funds for his burial

Rear of document

Another main target of gambling organizations is senior citizens.

- The University of Chicago reveals the highest increase among gamblers since 1974 has been among those 65 and older.
- Casinos and the like are after their pensions, retirement money, and social security checks.
- Research reveals that the busiest days of the month for casinos is the third and fourth day. Retirement checks have arrived in the mail and are wagered in casinos.
- One third of these folks gamble with pension money and one fifth with social security money...money they cannot afford to lose.