

An Imperfect Deliverer

May 2, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 14:1-20

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

A Tantalizing Story

- Once again trouble 13:1 *did what was evil in the sight of the Lord*
- We are setup with an awesome prelude w/ Manoah & wife
- Samson - perhaps the most flawed character in Judges

Samson's Story

- Samson grew up, God blessed him 13:24-25
- Went down to Timnah (Philistine place of vineyards) and saw an attractive woman - told parents, 'get her for me' 2
- Parent attempt to dissuade because she is from uncircumcised Philistines - not a follower of God
- This is not a racial issue rather it is a spiritual issue
- Mixed marriages are forbidden on spiritual grounds ^{Ex 34:15-16}
- Moses married Ziporah (Midianite) she followed God ^{Ex 4:25-26}
- Samson unwilling to hear good counsel, replies 'get her' ^{Jdgs 14:3}
- Samson reflects Israel's condition: impulsive & unteachable

Apply: We are warned of unequal yokes 2 Cor 6:14-16

- don't bind yourself with an unbeliever in business
- don't marry an unbeliever
- Test: does that person follow God & His values 1 Cor 10:31

What God's People Didn't Do

- Samson is not the judge we hope for
- He is no comparison to Othniel ^{Jdgs 3:7-11}
- In this cycle the people did NOT cry for deliverance
- God sent Samson to preserve His covenant people

How are we like Israel?

- Modern church - 'modernism' sought to make Christianity more relevant by removing supernatural - Rudolph Bultmann
- Declared Bible to be inspired rather than infallible
- Idea of conversion or new birth dropped, now being Christian was to live a life of mercy & justice
- Liberal churches saw tolerance as a virtue rather than Word
- Conservative churches idolized the past

God's Faithful Working

- God was using Samson for His purposes ^{Jdgs 14:4}
- God used Samson's weaknesses to create division
- Each was acting out of their own ungodly character, each responsible for their own actions, God was using for His plan
- God is committed to preserving His people because of His covenant promises to them!
- God used man's sinful actions to accomplish the ultimate act of redemption in Christ Act 2:23
- Are you at peace w/ the world? ^{Jms 4:4; Jn 17:14-17; 1 Co 4:3-5}

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