

More Lessons from an Imperfect Deliverer

May 9, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 14:1-20

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Samson – passion driven

- Lived with disdain for the Nazirite vow^{Num 6}
- Samson was going through vineyard at Timnah
- Spirit of the Lord enabled him to tear lion apart
- Samson doesn't seem to care about dead body or cleansing
- Samson went back to dead lion

Samson seeks to wed out of the faith

- Samson provided 30 groomsmen (probably to watch him)
- Samson makes a riddle of his unclean lion encounter
- His wife cries to get answer of riddle, tells Philistines^{14:18}
- Spirit of the Lord equips Samson to kill 30 Philistines
- Father-in-law gives away his wife, Samson retaliates
- Samson uses 300 foxes to set fire to crops, orchards, etc.
- Philistines burn wife & father-in-law (retaliation begets retaliation)
- Apply: do God's work using God's methods

Lessons on God's Sovereignty

- Spirit of the Lord gives Samson super-human strength
- But why would God use such a flawed man like Samson?
- Judges shows us God's grace & undeserved mercy
- Not excuse to live for self - Remember 1 Pet 1:15
- God works through sinners & sinful situations. God is faithful and keeps His promises to bless His people.
- Not even our own sin will stop God from saving us or using us Rom 8:28

Samson's continued confrontation with Philistines

- Philistines take revenge & Samson takes revenge
- Philistines send army to capture Samson
- Men of Judah capture Samson and hand him over (betrayal)
- Tied with 2 new ropes which can't hold him^{15:14}
- Samson arrogantly prays to God^{15:18}
- God provided; Samson judged Israel under the Philistines

Lessons on Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit

- Gifts - skills for doing; Fruit - character traits of being
- We can have gifts without Fruit of the Spirit
- 1 Cor 12; 14; Gal 5:22-23; 1 Cor 13:1-3
- Realize distinction between gifts and fruit
- Don't think gifting is God's affirmation or proof of spirituality
- Religious activity is NOT an indicator of spiritual health
- How much you pray (talk) to God is better indicator
- Beware of Lone Ranger Christianity. God saves into Body.
- Samson was basically a one-man wrecking crew
- Samson shows us our need for God's deliverer: Jesus Christ!

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