

## Even Fools can be God's Servant

May 16, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 16:1-31

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

### Samson – Victory in Weakness

- Samson judged Israel for 20 yrs. Not ideal model of holiness
- Visits prostitute in Gaza - walled city of enemies
- Samson seems to know it is a trap - leaves at midnight
- Carries the gates of the city up a hill
- God's agenda : create division of God's people from world

### The Infamous Delilah

- Samson's lifestyle was full of self-centered living
- Enemies use his vice to set a trap
- Delilah cooperates w/ Philistine Lords for:
  - money - 5500 shekels ~ \$16.5 million
  - prestige - imagine the honor of taking a great enemy
  - safety - Philistines were not nice people (burned wife)

### Samson the Fool

- Samson/Delilah - not love, but using each other
- Samson stayed after she asks for where your strength lies
- Samson stays each time - if only he had fled like Joseph<sup>Gen39:11</sup>
- Samson reveals his heart - Delilah knows it & acts
- Samson presumes upon God – always strong
- Relationship with God depends upon heart-relationship
  - Jesus - Acts 1:8; Mt 28:18-20; Jn 15:26-27
  - We are to walk in power of Spirit Gal 5:16-17;25
- Remember Divine power is not by following rules and it can't be easily lost - Samson & Philistines didn't get that

### Danger of Viewing God magically

- God still was using Samson, Philistines let hair grow
- Samson was God's chosen to begin to deliver Jdg 13:7
- God is faithful even when we aren't 2 Tim 2:13
- Our salvation depends on God's character, not ours<sup>Jn 10:28</sup>
- God's grace is conditional and unconditional - tension

### The Big Picture

- This is about more than Samson & Philistines... story of God
- Israel had whored after other gods... God will act!
- Samson has faith though he is disobedient Heb 11:32-33
- Samson knows God is being mocked - prays for strength

### Our Perfect Deliverer

- Samson foreshadows imperfectly our perfect Deliverer!
- Samson's death killed many enemies
- Jesus' death killed the ultimate enemy (Satan & death)
- Look in faith to God's deliverer Jesus!

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