

Lessons from a Decaying Culture:

A Study in the Book Of Judges

Intro:

- Judges: a very gruesome and disturbing book that reminds us of the power and patience of God.
- God uses sinners. If you don't have a flaw, He will give you one. (2 Cor 12:7-9)
- What's missing from this cycle of Judges?
 - Philistines: Buccaneers, beer, and bacon.
 - This is the greatest threat they have ever faced: Elimination not by extermination, but assimilation.
- Samson's birth and the Nazarite Vow: Don't cut hair, don't touch anything dead, and don't drink from the vine. (temporary and voluntarily vs. permanent and God-ordained.)
- God will use the bad choices of Samson to further His purpose. (Judges 14:4)

I. 5 Problems that Plague Samson

- Compromise. (Judges 14:1-2)
- Unteachable (Judges 14:3)
- Impulsive (Judges 14:17-18)
- Entitled (Judges 15:1-3;16-18)
- Proudful (Judges 16:1-3)

II. Lessons to Take Away

- All 5 of the problems that plague Samson plague us also. (1 Cor 10:10)
- God can use even our faults, failures, and frustrations for His purpose and His glory.
- Just because God works with our weaknesses, doesn't mean being weak should be our goal. (Rom 6:1-2)
- We need a better judge to save us. (Judges 15:20)

Quotes and Notes:

“Samson is a maverick fighter who failed to make much of an impact on the enemy, a person of childish tantrums and sadistic instincts harnessed to misused physical powers. He is a hulk of a man, yet a man to laugh at”. ~ Catherine Clark Kroeger

“Always remember: Power in the wrong hands can destroy the owner. The same power that gave victory to Samson is what destroyed him.” — Ziad K. Abdelnour

“A Nazirite who breaks the rules, an Israelite who loves the enemy, a mighty fighter who is no leader, a deliverer who, in fact, does not seem to know that he is meant to deliver. Samson is a piece of work.” ~ Carol A. Newsom

“Samson's history is a disgrace: a misuse of grace”. ~ Mary J. Evans

“If you ever feel that way about reading the Bible [that the Bible is a collection of moral fables showing us good examples], it shows that you don't understand the message of the Bible. You're imposing your understanding of the message on the Bible. You're assuming that the message of the Bible is "God blesses and saves those who live morally exemplary lives." That's not the message of the Bible. The message of the Bible is that God persistently and continuously gives his grace to people who don't ask for it, don't deserve it, and don't even fully appreciate it after they get it.” ~ Tim Keller

