

Judges 13-16 Samson, Sovereignty, and Sanctification

4/5/09 - The Exchange

- I. Intros
  - A. Three kinds of people. How we divide things up.
  - B. Either/or vs. both/and
  - C. Pendulum, truth is usually in the middle
- II. Look at some topics in advance, then go through text connecting the dots as we go.
  - A. Sovereignty - a matter of perspective. Writer vs. character.
    - 1. of God. Some people work primarily in this space.
      - a) "Since God is in control and I am not, I leave it to Him and do what I can."
      - b) Does God cause (good or bad)? Does God allow (good or bad)? Unless specified, we can't say.
    - 2. of man. Some people work primarily in this space.
      - a) "All I can deal with is what is in front of me and what I can't control I leave to the sovereignty of God."
      - b) Does man cause (good or bad)? Does man allow (good or bad)?
    - 3. Either/or? Both/and? Truth pendulum is in the middle.
    - 4. When it matters it usually comes down to responsibility, credit, blame.
  - B. Sanctification - an application of the concept of sovereignty.
    - 1. Different from salvation, assumes salvation.
    - 2. What sanctifies us; what we do or what Jesus has done? Either/or or both/and?
    - 3. Does God bless us because of what we do or what we are? Either/or or both/and? Third option - neither, because God has decided to in light or in spite of either.
    - 4. Some live so holy they are hermits. Some live so free they live at the end of the leash.
  - C. In both areas we try to put God in a box so we can handle, formulate, and manage it all. We may put our version of God in a box, but God looks at us in the box He has put us in and lovingly, patiently shakes His head.
- III. 13
  - A. 13:1 Sin, servitude
  - B. 13:2
    - 1. Manoah - place of rest. Never read Mrs. Manoah's name.
    - 2. Barrenness.
      - a) Cultural stigma.
      - b) Sometimes God does specifically. Other times not?
      - c) Do fertility drugs, or choice to no have kids counter God's will? Does God have to work around what we do?
  - C. 13:3 When does life begin? Before conception as far as God goes.
  - D. 13:4-5
    - 1. Nazarite - Numbers 6.
      - a) Men and women, for a time.

- b) Don't touch dead stuff, don't cut your hair, nothing of the vine from seed to skin.
  - c) Purpose was to be more deliberately set apart to God.
  - d) Samson was to be one from birth. Not a prediction, a command.
- 2. In addition to being a Nazarite, his purpose would be to begin the process of delivering Israel from the Philistines. Not complete it, just begin it. This purpose is key in light of the rest of Samson's account.
  - 3. Israel was a set apart people to begin with, yet God had a provision for some to set themselves apart for a specially purpose.
  - 4. As Christians, we are set apart from the world to God by means of Jesus for the purpose of reaching the world. Additionally, we can be set apart for special things.
    - a) Missions, chaplain, pastor, teacher.
    - b) Can also do so for special time with the Lord. Fasting and prayer. Not just from food either.
    - c) Does God always have a special purpose for everyone like this? Perhaps, perhaps not. Doesn't exclude us from being generally set apart.
- E. 13:6-7 Mrs. Manoah tells Manoah what happened, points out Samson will be a Nazarite from birth to death.
- F. 13:8-23 The rest of the story. 13:18, same as Isaiah 9:6. Jesus?
- G. 13:24-25 Samson born and grows up
- 1. Why did the woman bare a son?
    - a) Because she and her husband chose to have sex and this time they conceived? Yes. Was it a miracle? Don't know.
    - b) Because God in His sovereignty predetermined that that was what was going to happen? Yup. Did He cause it to happen or allow it to happen? Don't know.
  - 2. What God has determined to happen, whether he causes or allows it, will happen. Our response and responsibility is to obey what we are to obey and trust Him with the rest.
    - a) Some things in life are the direct result of God's intention whether people realize that's what they are doing or not.
    - b) Some things in life are the direct result of man's stupidity, and God causes, allows, and uses them for His own ends.
  - 3. If you want to fight, fine. Just spend more time being sanctified, obedient, enjoying God's grace than you do fighting about it.
- IV. Jesus is our example of all of this working together.
- V. Normally end there, but this is Palm Sunday.
- A. Anniversary of Jesus riding in on donkey as king, only time He let people worship Him as king.
  - B. A day predetermined sovereignly by God, specific day told in advance by angel Gabriel to Daniel in Daniel 9.
  - C. At the same time Jesus was sanctified, He chose to obey His Father.
  - D. Communion.