

Judges 14-16 Samson, Sovereignty, Sanctification pt 2
4/12/09 - The Exchange

- I. Why is Samson in the Hebrews 11 hall of faith? No idea.
 - A. What we know (up till now)
 1. Called to be a Nazarite from birth to death. Review. Unique thing to be one from birth, had consequences (isolation, family seen as weird), but that was God's call for them, not all.
 2. Called to begin the process of delivering Israel from the Phils. **Key to understanding his life.**
 3. The HS began to stir him up, probably ref. to his strength.
 - B. What we can speculate (based on the rest we observe)
 1. Long hair worked into 7 braids
 2. Probably a 98-pound weakling (me until 21). Phils tried to figure it out, must not have been obvious like Schwartz.
 3. Probably had no friends, picked on growing up due to isolation and freaky strength. Siblings as well.
 4. As strength came with no size probably let it go to his head. **Zero to freak to bully. Also probably not a ladies man.**
 5. While God was faithful to him, his love for God probably became connected to the times of strength.
- II. 14
 - A. 14:1-3
 1. His intention isn't to deliver Israel, it's to get this hottie.
 2. His parents have it right, God's way, but not Sam's way.
 3. **When God begins to work in/through someone, that someone can become proud and arrogant very quickly. Look out for that in yourself and others.** Individuals, pastoral staff competitions.
 - B. 14:4 Does anyone else have a hard time with this? Leave the tension hanging in the air.
 - C. 14:5-9
 1. Vineyards and dead stuff. Two out of three.
 2. The Spirit acted without Samson having to do anything.
 - D. 14:10-20
 1. 14:11 They had to bring him him friends and a best man because he had none of his own.
 2. 14:17 This woman was not into let alone in love with Sam.
 3. 14:19 The root of the tension between Samson and the Phils, God's plan and purpose. Again, the Spirit acts.
- III. 15
 - A. 15:1-8 Survey
 - B. 15:9-11 Even though the people have not asked for it, God is in the process of providing them salvation. They are, in fact, against and going to deliver up the one God has set apart to deliver them.
 - C. 15:12-17 Survey
 - D. 15:18-20 Talking about him like he's done. He basically is.
- IV. 16
 - A. 16:1-3 Survey
 - B. 16:4-20 Survey
 - C. 16:21-31

1. 16:21 Highlight this one for later.
 2. 16:22 Is it really the hair? No, it's just an outward symbol of an inward reality, a connection with God thing.
 3. 16:28 Heart of vengeance. Wrong heart, right action.
 4. In the end, he did do what God called and set him apart to do.
- V. Again, why is this guy in the Hebrews 11 hall of faith?
- A. List of offenses
 1. Disobeyed God's commands. Seeks a wife outside God's people. Sleeps around
 2. Compromises that which sets him apart
 3. Proud, arrogant, lustful, revenge seeking, bitter
 4. Not the idea Godly guy or role model!
 - B. Guess what? All the people in Hebrews 11 were rats and weasels. Guess what? So am I, and so are you.
 1. While the Hebrews 11 hall of faith is about the people and their faith in God, it is also a testimony to the faithfulness of God despite the weakness and sinfulness of mankind. Listed not because of what they did (good or bad), but because of faith,
 2. Call back to 14:4. There are times that I think thoughts and commit actions that are contrary to God's word, yet His grace and His faithfulness are ever present, always in action. God uses those things to accomplish His will and bring glory to Himself.
 3. Call back to 15:11. When you give up on your sanctification, you become a captive of the enemy. Not a salvation issue, a sanctification one. For the believer. For the non believer, you are already a captive of the enemy.
 4. In the end, what we see in Samson is God's grace and faithfulness toward Samson, despite him being a rat and weasel.
 - C. A lot of people bag on God. The truth is He puts up with a lot.
- VI. The problem is sin. The answer is Jesus.
- A. As the world downplays sin, they downplay the need for Jesus.
 - B. It then becomes about earning or what it fair.
 1. We want rules and fairness because that puts us in control and doesn't require us to trust in God or His grace or have relationship with Him.
 2. It's not about earning, it's about God's grace and faithfulness.
 - C. The problems is sin.
 1. Jn 3:17a, Rom. 3:23, 6:23a. Our best is dirty tampons. Isaiah.
 2. It's our nature. A debt that can't be repaid. None righteous.
 - D. The answer is Jesus
 1. John 3:16-17, Rom. 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 2 Cor 5:17, Gal. 2:20
 2. He gives us a new nature. Doesn't forgive debt, pays it off.
 - E. As messed up as Samson was, as messed up as we are, as much as none of us deserve anything from God, He offers us forgiveness, salvation, and relationship. (If time, PS 51)
 - F. This is all the whole point of Resurrection Sunday. Justification, sanctification, glorification. What God has done for us (both/and).