Murray Baptist Church – 12/29/20 – Bible Study Outline – Judges

**Judges 16 – The Life of Samson (conclusion)**

Subtheme #2 – Samson is willing to share his secrets to win the approval of women, rather than focus on living like he’s approved by God.

The story of Sampson continues but it has been 20 years since the last exploits of Sampson have been documented. Judges 16 begins with a familiar weakness continuing to plague him. Sampson still has not overcome his tendencies with women which allows him to fall into the hands of his enemies.

Judges 16:1-3 Old habits die hard

V.1 Sampson spends the night with a prostitute in Gaza and put his life in jeopardy.

V.2 The Philistines enacted a plan to kill Sampson at dawn.

V.3 Sampson leaves in the middle of the night when his enemies would have been sleeping and carries the locked gates to the top of a hill. This act of strength is the only time that there is no mention that the Spirit of the Lord was on him.

V.4 Sampson falls “in love” with another Philistine woman, Delilah. Delilah from a practical perspective represents something or someone that we want who is not good for us, who demonstrates often that he she or it doesn’t have our best interests in mind. In another sense it is the line that continually flirt with crossing until we actually do it and have to pay the price.

Ironically women are pitted against Sampson 1) because people understand that women are his weakness; 2) Because it is clear that he is so infatuated with them he loses common sense around them.

V.5 The Philistine offer Delilah 1100 Shekels of silver if she will get Sampson to share the secret of his strength.

V6 – 21 Sampson and Delilah antagonize each other.

Delilah asks Sampson four times to tell her the secret of his strength and then she nags and prods him every day (vs. 6, 10, 13, 16).

Sampson responds with incorrect answers (vs. 7, 11, 13) – tie me with fresh bowstrings; new ropes; weave my hair into the fabric on the loom.

Observations – after each of the first three times that Sampson intentionally and incorrectly told Delilah the secret of his strength. Delilah has Philistine men hidden in the room where she and Sampson are when he gives her an answer. Yet Sampson is so arrogant that never considers the possibility they may overtake him. He doesn’t know that he’s going to really tell Delilah the truth about his strength.

V. 17 – 19 Tired of being nagged by Delilah, he tells her; and she takes advantage of it. Sampson’s strength has left him.

Vs. 20-22 - This verse confirms the truth about Samson’s strength, his hair been shaved. The Nazirite vow has been interrupted and the Lord has left him. The Lord was responsible for Sampson’s strength not his hair. The consequences of Sampson sharing the truth was that his eyes were gouged out, he was taken to Gaza, he was contained with bronze shackles, and made him grind grain in prison. The good news is that his hair is starting to grow back.

Vs. 23-24 – Sampson’s overreliance on his strength caused the god of the Philistines, Dagon to be exalted.

Vs. 25-30

* Sampson is made to entertain the Philistines during their celebration
* Sampson asks to be positioned near two support pillars
* An unspecified number of people plus 3000-4000 more on the roof watched him perform
* Sampson does something that isn’t often documented which is praying to God (for strength)
* Sampson pushes over the two central pillars and the temple, and asks to die with the Philistines
* In the act of destroying the temple, Samson killed more Philistines in his death than during his life.

V. 31 – Sampson’s family went down to get his body and brought him back home and buried him in his father’s tomb. Sampson had led 20 years.

Food for thought

1. How would the warnings and practical advice set out in Proverbs 5 have helped Samson to avoid temptation? List the principles hat should guide us in the way that we relate to members of the opposite sex (see also 1 Timothy 2:9-10; 52b).
2. What does James 1:13-15 tell us about the source and character of temptation? How must we resist it? (See 1 Cor. 10:13; Proverbs 6:27; Romans 6:12-14)
3. Look at James 5:19-20 and consider how you would speak to a Christian friend who appears to b playing with the temptation to commit a sin such as adultery, fornication or theft. What should you do if he or she will not listen to you? (Matt.18:15-19)?
4. A Christian leader has yielded to temptation and committed adultery. He leaves his position repents of his sin and restores his relationship with his wife. Do you think there should ever be a time when he might be allowed back into leadership or Christian Ministry? If not, what should he be permitted to do?
5. What positive steps can a local churches take to help men and women protect the purity of their marriage relationships?