



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, September 5, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“The Tragic End of Living for One’s Passions”

Judges 16

1. There is a fool's gold of usefulness in the middle of ugly sin.
(Judges 16:1-3)
2. Attempting to manage sin rather than killing it will always lead to disaster. (Judges 16:4-21)

3. The grace of God to a ruined sinner (Judges 16:22-31)

Table Talk

- 1) How is Samson attempting to hide his sin? Why do people try to hide their sin? Why is mistaking usefulness as holiness “fool’s gold”? What dangers are there for thinking that being useful for God is being holy? (see verses 1-3)
- 2) What are some ways that people try to “manage their sin”? How do you see Samson attempting to manage his sin in verses 4-22? What compromises does Samson make as he and Delilah go through her four attempts to get at the secret of his strength? (vv. 7-17) What methods does Delilah employ to get to the answer of Samson’s strength? How do you see people today utilizing those same methods to get what they want?
- 3) Do you think that Samson’s strength was in part via an impressive body, or do you think that Samson’s strength had nothing to do with his physical attributes?
- 4) How is it ironic that the Philistines blinded Samson? How did what Samson “saw” become a stumbling block to him for his entire life? To what was Samson blind from the time that he started his judging Israel?
- 5) How do verses 22-31 give us hope? What evidences do we see of Samson’s repentance in his prayer in verse 28? How do verses 22-31 make us sad? Why would God want us to have both hope and sadness at the end of the Samson story? Why do you think the Samson narrative is in the Bible?