

Recap The Book of Judges: Patterns

Second Week in the book of Judges

Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah & Samson.

And it is indeed a spiral because it indicates a repeated pattern.

Israel turns away from God.

They are oppressed by an enemy because of this.

They cry out to God.

He responds by rescuing them through a Judge.

After these Five cycles, the bottom really falls out.

We are invited to examine the patterns of our own lives.

Samson

The last of 5 Judges whose story is contained in Chapters 13-16 of Judges.

Chapter 13 is about the birth of Samson.

Chapter 14 is about his being enmeshed with the Philistines (Marriage)

Chapter 15 is about a cycle of revenge started in Chapter 14.

Chapter 16 is about Delilah, his fall and final revenge.

Samson is a cycle within a cycle.

Strong in body but weak in character.

The pattern of Samson's life has 3 themes.

1. Conforming to the World - Compromised his Identity
Pattern with Women – Samson had no discernment. Indiscriminate.
He was driven by his sexuality, sacrificing all his values.
His wife (who is never named).
Delilah
There is a reason why I hold to the teaching of the Bible when it says
not to be yoked with unbelievers. (2 Cor 6)
Samson did not take being holy, separate, a Nazirite seriously.
Singleness and sexuality.
God is not trying to hurt but to protect.
Samson would not listen.
The World challenges us calling us to fit in.
Do we compromise our Kingdom identity when we are challenged?
2. Self-Centred - Selfish & Self-Consumed
Revenge. It was all about him and his pride and ego.
He antagonized and taunted the Philistines.
There was no awareness of anyone else in any of his relationship.
Even with his wife and Delilah, it was about his penis.
He cares for no one.
He would have made a phenomenal action star.
In what ways are we running our own lives.
Do we care only for our own comfort and ends?

To a degree we all might, but this is worth examining.
How well do we love?

3. Superficial Faith

Samson prays twice in all these accounts.

Once was when he was thirsty – He complains and God provides.

The other was when he wishes to finally destroy his enemies.

Otherwise he never acknowledges God.

And yet God uses him to save Israel in a way.

He was always invited to participate with God and be blessed,

 Be he refuses by his way of living.

God works through him, but Samson misses the blessing.

Is our faith superficial?

Do we treat God like a vending machine or just pay him lip service?

Do we just attend church or are we the church?

Three patterns

 Conforming to the World

 Self- Centred

 Superficial Faith

These are our patterns in various degrees.

This is our sin that we turn from and ask God to cleanse from us.

So that is the story of Samson – Strong in body, weak in Character.

Questions & Thoughts

In what ways do you use your strengths hide your weaknesses?

How are you tempted to conform to the World, be selfish or have superficial faith?

How has God redeemed you from some of these things?