

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

SERMON OUTLINE

'The Days of the Judges'

Study - 12

Judges 16 v1 - 31

Title - 'Despite our sin - God gets the glory'

Text - Ps 23 v3 - "He restores my soul....."

1. HOW SAMSON WAS HUMBLLED BY SIN

Key Question - How did it come to this? See - v21. The answer is - very, very easily! See - 1 Cor 10 v12, But why was it that Samson fell to temptation and sin so very easily?

A. THE SOURCE OF THE TEMPTATION TO SIN

See - v1 - 3. Note:-

(i) Where he went

Gaza! What was he doing there?

(ii) What he saw

A prostitute. See - 1 Jn 2 v15 - 16. This was the lust of the eyes. See - v21a. If only he could have controlled his eyes!

Key Point - This was a besetting sin. An uncrucified sin. See - Matt 5 v29 - 30.

B. THE PROGRESS OF THE TEMPTATION TO SIN

(i) Temptations to sin are always attractively presented

Delilah was no 'Ugly Betty' - she was an absolute stunner!

Note - Samson and Delilah were not truly in love. Delilah's motivation was financial. See - v5. Samson's motivation was sexual.

Key Point - Satan always makes temptation to sin to be irresistibly attractive. See - Gen 3 v6

(ii) Temptations to sin are always stubbornly persistent

See - v6 - 17.

C. THE END OF THE TEMPTATION TO SIN

See - v20.

Key Point - Samson didn't know that the Lord had left him.

Key Question - How did it all begin? See - v1 - 4. The metaphorical 'close shave' ought not to have led (it was a warning) to the literal 'close shave'.

2. HOW SAMSON WAS RESTORED BY GOD

Key Point - God was working His purposes out!

A. GOD'S PURPOSES IN SAMSON

By means of a painful discipline God was working in Samson to make him what God has always intended him to be. See - Heb 12 v5 - 22.

Note the Comfort - see - v22.

Note the Warning - Samson had to live with the consequences of his sin. Though he got his hair back - he didn't get his sight back.

B. GOD'S PURPOSES THROUGH SAMSON

See - v22 - 31.

Key Question - Who is really and truly God? Is it Dagon or Jehovah? The answer is given as Samson brings the house down.

Note the Comfort - God used Samson's blindness to bring glory to Himself.

Key Point - Samson discovered that without God he was nothing. See - v28 & John 15 v5

**'The church is not an academy for perfect saints
but a hospital for sinful failures'**