

Who Is In Your Driver's Seat

Judges 14

Introduction:

- A. What do the following cause you to overlook?
 1. A dot on a yellow sticky note.
 2. A pimple on your face.
- B. Samson's later f_____ cause many to miss the point the inspired writer is showing us in Judges 14.
 1. Judges 13:5 gives Samson's parents his life's purpose – *to begin to d_____ Israel from the hands of the Philistines.*
 2. The parents dedicated him for this purpose by making him a Nazirite from the w_____ until his death.
 3. Samson obviously knew this purpose from the beginning and was waiting on the Holy Spirit.
 4. The writer wants us to see in this chapter, that Samson's actions were driven by the Holy Spirit.
 5. Who is in your driver's seat?

God's guidance is not through sinful desires but by His Spirit (1-4,7)

- A. Samson goes to the Philistine village of Timnah
 1. The reason is given in Judges 13:25 – because the Spirit of the LORD was s_____ him while he was between his home town and another Israelite village.
 2. The occasion for Samson being in Timnah
 - a. He s_____ a Philistine woman and returns home, telling his parents to get this woman for him to be his wife.
 - b. Samson's parents see this woman as a p_____ choice and calls her the d_____ of the uncircumcised Philistines (a derogatory term).
 - 1) Ex 34:11-16 and Deut 7:1-6 list the nations Israel was not to intermarry with. The Philistines are not mentioned.
 - 2) The principle for the prohibition of marrying foreigners is to prevent Israel from w_____ their gods.
 - 3) However, if a foreigner forsook their gods to marry an Israelite, it was allowable (e.g. R_____ the harlot).
 - c. *She looks good to me* (vv. 4,7)
 - 1) A more literal translation is that *she is right in my eyes.* (in his parent's eyes the woman was the wrong choice)

- 2) The source of this “rightness” was not lust because of what the inspired writer emphasizes – the parents *did not know that **IT*** was of the Lord.
- 3) The intention of Samson is made plain by the inspired writer: for ***he** was seeking an occasion against the Philistines.*
 - a) Some interpret this to be the L_____
 - b) Others interpret this to be S_____
 - c) The bottom line is that Samson was being guided by the Holy Spirit not any selfish desire.

B. Application

1. Gal 5:16,17 – there are two natures within every believer
 - a. The Spirit and the f_____ (i.e. the sinful nature).
 - b. The above two are always in o_____ to one another.
 - c. Therefore, the Spirit will never g_____ you through any selfish desire.
2. What are some actions that believers might justify as being godly when it is from sinful desires?
 - a. G_____ - sharing negative information about someone as a prayer request or as a matter “of concern.”
 - b. Church s_____ - recruiting others within the church to take issue with some in the church.
 - c. Eph 4:1-4 shows that the Spirit guides us to p_____ or to restore harmony within the church.
3. Use Gal 5:19-23 as a way of checking your actions and attitudes, which lists the things of the flesh and the f_____ of the Spirit.

God’s gifting is not for your glory but His (5-20)

A. Samson’s and his supernatural strength

1. In v. 6, the inspired writer states that the Spirit came upon Samson m_____ and he ends up killing the young lion without effort.
 - a. Samson keeps this gifting a s_____
 - b. Samson knew that his gift of human strength was not for his g_____ but God’s who would use this strength to *begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.*
2. In v. 19, the inspired writer states that the Spirit came upon Samson m_____ and he ends up killing 30 Philistines in a different town.
 - a. This action was not out of anger, for it was not until a_____ he killed the Philistines that he became angry (his anger was

directed against his bride. He went home instead of consummating the marriage).

- b. Samson used his gifting according to the S_____, which is glorifying to God.
- B. God gifts every believer in Christ for the purpose of glorifying Him.
1. Beware of using your gifting to bring attention to yourself and of others who use their gifting in such a way.
 2. It is good to r_____ one another's gifting
 - a. Rom 12:4,5 – together we are one b_____;
individually we are m_____ of that body.
 - b. Appreciating one another is glorifying to God.
 3. Exercising our gifting is not to be conditioned on appreciation but on the p_____ of the Spirit. This is glorifying to God.

Conclusion – *who is in your driver's seat?*

- A. Checkpoint #1 is Gal 5:16-24 – are you being guided by the Spirit or the flesh?
- B. Checkpoint #2 is I Pet 4:11 – are you using your gifting to glorify God or yourself?
 1. Speaking gifts – based on God's word, not yours
 2. Doing gifts – in God's strength, not your own