

“Samson’s Desires”

Judges #15

Judges 14:1-20

June 11, 2017

## **Scripture Reading: Judges 14:1-4**

Series Setup & Introductory Remarks

### **Prayer**

### **Introduction**

Obligatory C.S. Lewis quote — It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

**Big Idea:** As fallen humans, all our desires are affected to some degree. But in Christ, our desires are re-ordered to lead us to satisfaction in him.

### **I. The Story**

#### Pursuit of Pleasure | vs. 1-3

- Judges 21:25 — In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

#### Cultural Capitulation | vs. 4

<sup>4</sup>His father and mother did not know that it was from the Lord, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.

- Tim Keller — In short, Israel’s capitulation to the Philistines is far more profound and complete than any of their previous enslavements. In the past, Israel groaned and agonized under their occupations by pagan powers, because their domination was military and political. But now the people are virtually unconscious of their enslavement, because its nature is that of cultural accommodation. The Israelites do not groan and resist their “captors” now because they have completely adopted and adapted to the values, mores, and idols of the Philistines.

#### Preview of Power | vs. 5-6

#### Lion Carcass | vs. 7-9

Drinking Party | vs. 10-11

Feast — מִשְׁתֶּה (mishteh) “to drink”

The Wager | vs. 12-14a

Manipulation and Deceit | vs. 14b-17

Dishonest Victory | vs. 18

Angry Confrontation | vs. 19-20

- Dale Ralph Davis — The text then is clear: what we are dealing with is not Samson’s temper but the Spirit’s power. If this seems brutal, we must simply live with it. We have already seen that when Yahweh delivers his people he does not always dip his saving acts in Clorox and sprinkle them with perfume. To be delivered from evil will frequently be messy.

## **II. What Can We Learn?**

Samson embodies 1 John 2:16 — <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

- Reference to Genesis 3:6 with Eve

### Questions to Answer

1. Is God sovereign even over sin?
  - a. R.C. Sproul — If God is not sovereign, God is not God. If there is even one maverick molecule in the universe—one molecule running loose outside the scope of God’s sovereign ordination—we cannot have the slightest confidence that any promise God has ever made about the future will come to pass.
2. Is God responsible for sin?
  - i. Ezekiel 18:20 — The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.
  - ii. James 1:13-14 — <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
3. How do God’s sovereignty and human agency work together?
  - a. K. Lawson Younger — Yahweh’s seeking does not imply that he is inciting Samson’s lustful desire for the Timnite woman. Rather, it suggests that Samson’s sinful actions accord with Yahweh’s will. God uses Samson in spite of his wrong motives and actions. From the following stories it becomes clear that left to himself, Samson would never have become involved in God’s or even

Israel's agenda. Left to themselves, the Israelites would have been satisfied to continue to coexist with the Philistines. But Yahweh has other plans.

4. Can I just do what I want then?
  - a. 1 John 2:16-17 — <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.  
<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
5. How can my desires change?
  - a. Recognize your broken desires
  - b. Repent of choosing your desires over God's
  - c. Remember the gospel | Romans 8:32
  - d. Regularly receive God's grace | Psalm 107:8-9

**Benediction | Psalm 107:8-9 (modified)**

<sup>8</sup> Let *us* thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! <sup>9</sup>  
For he satisfies *our* longing *souls*, and *our* hungry *souls* he fills with good things.