

SAMSON (pt.4): Judges 16 by Brett Baggett on Sunday, April 5th, 2020

- Dale Ralph Davis: “Whether to ancient Israel or contemporary church, Samson’s tragedy still speaks: watch out, lest you abandon the divine call, leave your first love, and forfeit the divine presence.”

I. WATCH OUT! SIN & ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE CROUCHING AT THE DOOR (v.1-3)

- Can you lie down in the city of sin and not expect to be ambushed?
- Genesis 4:7 “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

II. WATCH OUT! YOU MUST NOT FLIRT WITH SIN; YOU MUST RUN FROM IT (v.4-19)

- SIN WAGES WAR AGAINST YOUR SOUL. 1 Pet. 2:11 “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” I MUST NOT FLIRT WITH THAT WHICH WAGES WAR AGAINST MY SOUL!
- SIN EASILY ENTANGLES. Heb. 12:1 “let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” I MUST NOT FLIRT WITH THAT WHICH EASILY ENTANGLES IN DEATH!
- ILLUSTRATION: Temptation is like a hand-grenade thrown into the trenches. If it’s peace time and something small and green rolls toward you, you might think nothing of it—a piece of fruit? If it’s wartime and you know you are in the trenches something small and green rolls toward you, you run!
- Q. What sinful thoughts are you flirting with? What sinful actions are you dabbling in? What sinful motives are you giving in to? What have you made a peace treaty with that is an assault on the glory of God? What enemy are you harboring in your heart that would seek to destroy the peace Jesus bought for you with His own blood?
- Paul warns us, “Flee sexual immorality!” (1 Cor. 6:18) FLEE! RUN! FLY! DEPART! RETREAT! VANISH! ESCAPE!
- Flee from sin like Joseph fled from Potiphar’s wife, leaving everything behind!
- Flee from transgression like Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt when Herod wanted to destroy the baby Jesus!
- Flee from iniquity like the Christians fled to the mountains when the Romans came to lay Jerusalem desolate!
- Flee worldliness like the sailors fled the sinking ship in Acts 27!
- Flee from idolatry like Jesus commands you through the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:14!
- Flee youthful lusts like He commands in 2 Timothy 2:22!
- Flee from even the temptation of sin, Beloved, like Jesus teaches us to ask the Father (the Lord’s Prayer)!

III. WATCH OUT! YOU CANNOT LEAVE YOUR FIRST LOVE WITHOUT GHASTLY CONSEQUENCES (v.20)

- REVELATION 2:3-5 3 “I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”

IV. OUR ONLY HOPE IS THAT GOD’S VOCABULARY INCLUDES THE WORD “BUT” (v.21)

- The truth is, we have not simply flirted with sin; we have whored after it.
- Q. Does that language shock you? A. It is supposed to (see Judges 2:17; 8:27, 33).
- Like Samson and the rest of Israel in the book of Judges, we have whored after sin and idolatry. We have done what was right in our own eyes and what was therefore evil in the eyes of the LORD!
- 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 9-11 9 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
- Q. Have you been born again? Do you have a hatred for your sin and living faith in the living Jesus? If not, you need feel no peace with God until you turn from your sin and go to Jesus Christ—trusting Him alone, submitting to Him alone! You need to be washed!
- Q. Have you been born again? If so, praise God and keep looking to Jesus Christ! Find great comfort and strength in these words by the Apostle John.
- 1 JOHN 2:1 “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

CONCLUSION: We must look to Jesus, the Founder and Finisher of our faith! (Hebrews 12)

- HEBREWS 12:1-2 1 “...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”