

**Sermon Title:** Glass Houses: Living Sober-Mindedly & Expectantly  
**Scriptures:** Judges 13-16

*Me & The **Mirror**:*

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and **the Lord blessed him,**<sup>25</sup> and the Spirit of the Lord began  
Judges 13:24-25

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup>The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup>The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup>But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. **And because of this I rejoice.**  
Philippians 1:15-18

**Get in front of self-righteousness **before** it gets in the way.**

**God working through us is not **His endorsement** of us.**

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior  
**11 the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.**  
Psalm 147:10-11

*A picture of **faithfulness**:*

*Notice **the parent's faithfulness**:*

A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. <sup>3</sup>The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. <sup>4</sup>Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean.<sup>5</sup> You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines." <sup>6</sup>Then the woman went to her husband and told him, "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn't ask him where he came from, and he didn't tell me his name. <sup>7</sup>But he said to me, 'You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.'" <sup>8</sup>**Then Manoah prayed to the Lord: "Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born."**  
<sup>9</sup>God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. <sup>10</sup>The woman hurried to tell her husband, "He's here! The man who appeared to me the other day!"  
Judges 13:2-10

**How many no's does it take **before you stop asking**?**

**How many moments of disappointment **before you stop believing**?**

But his wife answered, “If the Lord had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this.”  
Judges 13:23

**Confidence in God’s character produces faithfulness in our lives.**

**Parents, we can set our children up for success, we can’t make them successful.**

*Notice God’s faithfulness:*

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. <sup>2</sup>A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. <sup>3</sup>**The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said,** “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. <sup>4</sup>Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. <sup>5</sup>You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. **He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.**”

Judges 13:2-6

The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. <sup>10</sup>The people of Judah asked, “Why have you come to fight us?” “We have come to take Samson prisoner,” they answered, “to do to him as he did to us.” <sup>11</sup>Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, “**Don’t you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?**” He answered, “I merely did to them what they did to me.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “We’ve come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines.” Samson said, “Swear to me that you won’t kill me yourselves.”

Judges 14:9-12

**My awareness of God’s faithfulness doesn’t alter it, but it will affect the relationship.**

*A pattern of compromise:*

“During the entire period of their Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on their head. They must be holy until the period of their dedication to the Lord is over; they must let their hair grow long. <sup>6</sup>“Throughout the period of their dedication to the Lord, **the Nazirite must not go near a dead body.** <sup>7</sup>Even if their own father or mother or brother or sister dies, they must not make themselves ceremonially unclean on account of them, because the symbol of their dedication to God is on their head. <sup>8</sup>Throughout the period of their dedication, they are consecrated to the Lord  
Numbers 6:5-8

Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. <sup>6</sup>The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. <sup>7</sup>Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her. <sup>8</sup>Some time later, when he went back to marry her, **he turned aside to look at the lion’s carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey.** <sup>2</sup>**He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along.** When he

rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

Judges 14:5-9

Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "**You hate me! You don't really love me.** You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" <sup>17</sup> She cried the whole seven days of the feast. **So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him.**

Judges 14:16-17

Then she said to him, "**How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me?** This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." <sup>16</sup> **With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.** <sup>17</sup> **So he told her everything.**

Judges 15:15-17

**Compromise happens *over time* not overnight.**

But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done... When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

Judges 14:6 & 9

**Compromise *thrives* in secrecy.**

Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." **But he did not know that the Lord had left him.**

<sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

Judges 16:20-21

**Compromise *catches* up to us.**

**Compromise is overcome *with more humility* not better strategy**

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **I have hidden your word in my heart** that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:9-11

*The possibility & power of **grace**:*

But **the hair on his head began to grow again** after it had been shaved.

Judges 16:22

**A life changing experience of God's grace involves His readiness to give it & our willingness to receive it.**

Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "**Sovereign Lord, remember me**. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."  
Judges 16:28

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, **Samson** and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,<sup>33</sup> who through faith....  
Hebrews 11:32-33a

**fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God  
Hebrews 12:2

**Jesus redeems people by grace & perfects them through faith.**

**Live sober-mindedly—live expectantly.**