

Sermon Notes

- The Story of Samson – Incredible Potential – Tragically Wasted
- Overcoming Samson's Failures:
 - o Lust – Judges 14:1-2 = I want God – Matthew 6:22
 - o Entitlement – Judges 14:6b = I want to serve God – Romans 6:23
 - o Pride – Judges 14:9b, 10 = I can't do anything without God – Proverbs 16:18
- Emotions that Take Strong Men Down – Judges 15:14-20
- Overcoming our emotionally driven decisions
 - o Cry out to God – Judges 15:18a
 - o Become Spirit Led – Galatians 5:14-16
 - o Practice acts of faith – worship, prayer, Bible Study, serving, etc.
- Small Steps Toward Big Destruction – Judges 16:1-4
 - o **One Day** – Risks 20 years for one night.
 - o Samson taunted the enemy, rationalized the same old sin, and disobeys God.
 - God makes a way!
- Failing Forward
 - o What do we do with our failures?
 - o Samson was NOT defined by his failures.
 - Judges 16:30 – he becomes the hero!
 - o Failure is a moment; failure is never a person.
 - We like to label people.
 - Luke 12:6-7 – You are valuable.
 - Luke 15:22-24 – We celebrate people who return.
 - o 2 Responses to Failure:
 - Remorse – unhealthy response
 - Inward Remorse = I'm a failure.
 - Outward Remorse = I'm a victim
 - Repentance – healthy response
 - Judges 16:28
 - Samson finally prays like he means it.
 - It changes everything.
 - o What pillars do you need to push down?
 - Proverbs 24:16