



Part 5: Stuck in The Consequences of Bad Decisions

February 20 & 21, 2016

Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

Samson's mission was to deliver Israel
by engaging and defeating the Philistines.

A String of Bad Decisions

Samson decides to use God's gift for his own purposes

Samson decides to repeatedly engage the enemy socially instead of missionally (*Judges 14*)

Bible Wisdom: Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals" (*1 Corinthians 15:33*); He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm (*Proverbs 13:20*).

Famous last words: I can handle it.

Samson decides to neglect his marriage covenant (*Judges 15:1*)

Samson decides to reject God and willfully break his commands (*Judges 16:1*)

Samson decides to repeatedly make himself vulnerable (*Judges 16*)

Bible Wisdom: As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.
– *Proverbs 26:11*

Samson decides to reveal his weakness to someone who will exploit it

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." With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it. – *Judges 16:15-16*

The Consequences

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. 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*

Samson's consequences for a series of bad decisions: worshiping at the feet of a god that he hates.

God's Grace: After all the bad decisions, God still answers Samson's prayer...

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*

What is one godly decision you can make and act on today?

In Gods' strength, I will _____

Next Steps

Looking at the question above, you may have no idea where to start. On today's program inserts you'll find some great suggestions of classes and events that will help you grow (register today), plus a couple dozen ways you could serve on Easter weekend (commit today!).

- 1) **Choose just one** of these opportunities,
- 2) Act on it today by signing up, and
- 3) Follow through on your commitment

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's the best decision you have ever made?
- 2) What's the worst decision you have ever made? What were the consequences?
- 3) Which of Samson's bad decisions are you making right now? How can you change your direction towards God's way?
- 4) Grant shared some famous last words: "I can handle it." In what area(s) of your life have you mistakenly rejected God because you believed that you could handle something on your own? How can you include God's direction right now?
- 5) Samson prays and God answers. What do you need to pray right now that will bring God's grace back into your life?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?