

Date: June 1, 2025
Series: Judges: Mankind Exposed
Title: The Goodness of God's Discipline
Text: Judges 16



INTRODUCTION

"His whole life is a series of miracles and follies." (Charles Spurgeon)

"And he [Samson] judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years." (Judges 15:20)

I. TAKING GOD'S GRACE FOR GRANTED

Judges 16:1 -

1) It is shocking to see Samson go to the Philistine capital city of Gaza, and it's unbelievably tragic to see Samson return, once again, to old patterns of sinful lust.

Note: God commands us to flee temptation not to "play" with it, not to "entertain" it, not to "consider" it (weighing the pros & cons), but to run from it!

"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

Judges 16:2-3 -

2) A city gate represented the strength of that city! Through Samson, God was (once again!) demonstrating the supremacy of HIS power and might! In this instance, no lives were lost; God was giving yet more time to repent.

"I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18b)

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him." (Colossians 2:13-15)

Judges 16:4-6 -

3) Sin makes you real dumb! Sin and lust can blind us to the truth, to the consequences, to the danger that is right in front of us!

Hebrews 12:5b-6, 11

Judges 16:6-22 -

4) Verse 22 does not merely tell us something about Samson's head but about Samson's heart, that God was using this time to both humble and grow Samson.

1 Peter 5:5 and Hebrews 4:7

Judges 16:23-31 -

5) Samson does not show us perfect faith, but he does show us genuine faith, authentic faith. In the end, Samson rightly called out to God for grace, help, and mercy; Samson rightly entrusted himself to God's sovereign will and plan.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

The preaching schedule for the next few months...

- **In June...** Body Basics: Life in the Body of Christ! Elders... Deacons... Membership... Team Ministry... why God has called us to active involvement in the Body of Christ!

- **Also in June...** Dr. Stan Schwartz is going to be with us on June 14th & 15th to do a Saturday Seminar and then to preach on Father's Day!

- **In July...** We'll finish the Book of Judges!

- **In mid-August...** The Book of Philippians: Triumphant, Tenacious, Battle-Tested JOY!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why was it so dangerous (physically and spiritually) for Samson to go to Gaza?
2. In what ways are we tempted to "play with" and "entertain" sin and temptation? What does it look like, practically, to flee/to run from sin and temptation?
3. In what ways did God show patience, goodness, and kindness to Samson? Did he deserve it?
4. Why does God discipline us? What is His goal and purpose?
5. How does Samson show us not a perfect faith but a genuine, authentic faith?