



Series Fundamentals of Successful Living

Passage Judges 13:1-14

Title Character Matters

Speaker: Pastor David Menard 01/08/2017

Discussion Starter: On Sunday we learned about the necessity of understanding the fundamentals of our Christian faith in order to walk in God's purposes for us. What does it mean to live a successful life according to God's definition?

Sin always leads to bondage: (Judges 13:1)

- God's people at this time were deceived, in bondage, doing what was right in their own eyes... but they were still God's covenant people. How is it possible for God's people to be in bondage? How does this type of deception work, and how can we prevent this deception in our own lives?

God initiates our REDEMPTION, RELATIONSHIP and REFORMATION: (Judges 13:2-5)

- Religion teaches us we can earn God's favor, please him by our own righteousness, but this is not the biblical truth. Instead God pursues and initiates us, even when we are far from Him. According to John 15:16 what insight do we glean from this passage as to our role in God's plan for our life?

God Blesses Humble People: (Judges 13:6-7)

- Throughout the bible God loves to use the humble. Now He is using Manoah and his wife. We know God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Why does he work this way? Why does he desire to use humble people?
- Pastor Dave said that God does not need our **ability** but our **teach-ability**. He used 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 to demonstrate this truth. In your own words describe why Paul would boast in his own infirmities and how does this tie into the blessings of being humble?
- God instructed Manoah and his wife that the child was to be a Nazarite from the womb till death. The word Nazarite means to be sanctified or set apart for God. As a Christian we are also supposed to be set apart for God. In what ways do you think God is calling us today to act and look different from the world around us so that we are identified as His?

Reformation Requires Sanctification: (Judges 13:8)

- Upon hearing the news from his wife Manoah sets himself apart to seek the LORD and pray for divine guidance. Even though Manoah did not know who it was who spoke to his wife his prayer, it is a great example to use in how we should seek the LORD. What can we learn from this prayer and what are some of the other things we can learn from how Jesus prayed to the Father?

Common Errors that Hinder Growth: (Judges 13:9-14)

- Manoah did not realize that God was speaking to him. According to Ecclesiastes 5:1 what warning is Solomon giving to those who attend the house of God? How does this verse apply to us in the church as Christians today?
- Why do you think God did not answer Manoah's question in verse 12 when he asked what would the boy's rule of life and his work be? What truth can we learn from how God responds to Manoah in verses 13 and 14 by not answering his question directly and how does that apply to us today?