



Rick Mandl
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A BAD HAIR DAY

**SAMSON DIDN'T RUIN HIS LIFE _____ AT _____
HE RUINED IT _____ AT A _____**

“One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. The people of Gaza were told, ‘Samson is here!’ So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, ‘At dawn we'll kill him.’”
Judges 16:1-2

Samson’s Small Steps Toward Big Destruction

1. Samson _____ His Enemy

“But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.”
Judges 16:3

2. Samson _____ The Same Old Sin

“Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.” Judges 16:4

“The rulers of the Philistines went to [Delilah] and said, ‘See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him...’”
Judges 16:5

“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

“After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.” Judges 16:19

3. Samson Assumed His _____ Would Never Cost Him

“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. 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

“Because the sentence against evil deeds is so long in coming, people in general think they can get by with murder.”
Ecclesiastes 8:11 (Msg)

Memory Verse
“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!
1 Corinthians 10:12

- MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .**
- Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:12
 - Ask God to show me any area where I’m saying “That could never happen to me”
 - Ask God to show me where I’m stepping away from Him
 - Get the most from this series by attending my Life group this week



Discussion Questions - Week #4

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "A Bad Hair Day," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

- What are some of the most common struggles you've seen that tend to lead people towards personal destruction?

- If you could undo one mistake you made in your life, what would you undo?

- Our message this weekend was entitled "A Bad Hair Day." What's the worst haircut you've ever received? (Please show pictures if you have them!)

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. What stands out to you in this passage?

How does enduring and reflecting upon suffering help us combat sin and temptation?

Do you think this means we should go out looking for suffering? Why or why not?

What do you think it looks like to be alert and of sober mind (v.7)?

If "love covers a multitude of sins," does that mean there are some sins that weren't previously covered by Christ's blood? If not, what does it mean?

What do you think is the connection between serving others in our giftings (v.10) and combating sinful desires (v.2)?

2. Read Proverbs 7. What similarities do you see between the youth without sense (v.7) and Samson?

How does Solomon describe the nature of temptation and sin?

Can you think of a time when Satan used the ways of the temptress to lure you in?

What encouragement does Solomon give to avoid falling into the enemy's trap?

Is there any application God is inviting you into through this passage?

FOR PRACTICE

The spiritual discipline of accountability means being answerable to someone for the purpose of growing in holiness. One wonders whether Samson would have failed so terribly had he had someone in his life who had the permission to speak the truth regarding the consequence of Samson's actions. Consider asking a caring and trusted friend to be your accountability partner. Share with them your hopes for growth and your areas of struggle. Then ask them to pray for you in these areas and permit them to ask, "Hey, how's it going with...?"

PASS IT ON

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS