



January 11, 2015

Step Up...Hot and Cold Judges 14-16

Introduction

What would it be like if "we stepped it up" in our lives? We were meant for more. The foundation or anchor in our series is Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." The big idea for this series is "stepping it up" to do the hard thing that brings the greatest rewards.

Discussion Questions

1. Many people have a spiritual journey that is marked by highs, lows, victories, failures and periods of dryness. Are these swings indicative of an inauthentic or immature relationship with God?
2. Consistency means steadfast adherence to the same principle, course, or form. We need to avoid the "hot" and "cold" in our lives. Samson was not willing to stay consistent in doing what was right. What are some of the main reasons for inconsistencies in mankind? Is our human nature faulted to be inconsistent? If so, explain why?
3. **Judges 14—Not disciplining my desires.** What can a person do if they are incapable of controlling desires or addictions? Is God able to do something good in a person's life in spite of a wrong decision or choice they have made?
4. **Judges 15—Not controlling my reactions.** There may have been moments you have lost your emotion to anger and want others to experience pain. David stated that courage is doing the right thing when we are wronged, not the absence of fear, and doing the hard thing that brings rewards. When others do something against you, do you feel that you have the right to get even? Has there been a time when your reactions were out of control? What was the outcome?
5. **Judges 16—Not realizing my carelessness.** Where in your life do you need to be more cautious? Samson is getting closer and closer to the edge. What spiritual guardrails need to be in place? No one plans to fail; it happens one step at a time. What will prevent you from failing spiritually?
6. Could Samson have made the right choices or were his choices simply the outgrowth of his character? If they were from his character, how could he have changed it?

Conclusion

There is a high cost of choosing comfort, setting the bar low, doing little, and putting things off. "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:14