

SERMON OUTLINE

GOD'S PATIENCE AND MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE

JUDGES 10:1-18 | REV. BOBOT ANDALIS

Following the chaos and bloodshed of Abimelech, two judges, Tola and Jair, provided a brief season of stability. But soon, Israel fell again into widespread idolatry, serving a whole pantheon of foreign gods. The LORD handed them over to enemy oppression. Yet, when Israel repented sincerely, putting away idols and returning to Him, God's heart was moved. His patience, though tested, shone through once more.

Tola "arose to save Israel" but no record of spiritual renewal was mentioned. Jair's wealth and influence, symbolized by his 30 sons riding 30 donkeys and ruling 30 towns, highlighted a period of outward prosperity but not lasting transformation. Leadership remained, but the hearts of the people were far from God (Judges 10:1-5).

The narrative then shifts to Israel's complete apostasy. They worshipped

seven foreign gods totally rejecting Yahweh, who had delivered them from these very nations. In righteous anger, God "sold" them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites, who oppressed them for 18 years. Man's persistent disobedience invites God's discipline, showing that His patience, though long, will not endure endless rebellion (Judges 10:6-9).

When the Israelites cried out, their confession was shallow and incomplete. They admitted to worshipping Baal but ignored their devotion to other false gods. God's response was firm, even sarcastic: "Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen" (Judges 10:14). He would not be manipulated by hollow words or desperate pleas. True repentance requires genuine turning away from sin and wholehearted return to Him (Judges 10:10-14).

At last, Israel's repentance proved sincere—they removed their idols and served Yahweh. This moved God's heart, but He did not act immediately. The Israelites, still looking for human solutions, scrambled to find a leader on their own, forgetting that salvation comes by God's power, not human effort (Judges 10:15-18).

Judges 10 warns us that God's mercy is costly. He calls for true repentance, not shallow remorse. His patience is deep, but it must not be abused.

Sermon Focus: God's patience is long, but it's not limitless; He desires true repentance, not repeated rebellion. Like Israel, we may stray, but when we return with sincerity, God is always ready to receive us. Let us not test His patience—let us respond with obedience. ✨

SAMSON: WHEN STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH

PASTOR SEAN FUERTE

Praise God for how He worked in our recent college camp. The college camp was entitled, "Samson: When strength is not enough" from Judges 13-17. Strength is often equated with an advantage in life, especially in a student's journey. Strength can come in many forms: charisma, status, capacity, talent or skill. When a student possesses these attributes, they are often seen as key ingredients for a successful college experience. However, as we study the life of Samson, we discover that strength alone is not enough! Though God granted him supernatural strength, he lived in stubbornness and made poor choices.

As we went through Samson's life, we saw his impulsiveness and poor choices. But despite all his compromises, God was still gracious and patient to him.

The life of Samson served as a mirror not only for the campers but even for the staff who were involved in ministering to the campers. We also learned from one of the plenaries that the greatest tragedy in life is not facing challenges but missing out on the presence of God.

To cap off the plenary sessions, Pastor Lito encouraged the students with an eye opening thought, "Redemption is not about rewriting the past: it is about what God can still do with what remains

of us." This is a good reminder for our students because amidst the pressures in life, God is a God of second chances as He gives us his grace to rise up again.

We had a total of 27 campers this year. We are grateful for the students of different backgrounds who came. Many of our campers are new in our Youth community and it is a joy to see that God is sending people our way. Despite the storm that came during the college camp, we built meaningful connections with our campers and among the staff, enjoyed our activities, learned what God deposited through the plenaries and sensed the presence of God in our silence and solitude.

Here are some of the thanksgiving items from the students who joined the camp:

- Pia Nano, a camp staff member, just graduated from college and shared that she was grateful to be able to minister to the students. She saw that the experiences that she had in college became a source of encouragement and hope to the students in her small group who are experiencing different challenges in school.
- Jethro Cañeda shared that he is grateful for the experience to join the camp because the camp focused on being rested in God's presence.

- When it came to the reminder on compromises, Albert Alicaway shared that he was grateful to be reminded of the danger of making compromises and that we should not let small compromises deceive us that we will continue in it.
- Arthur Sta. Ana shared that his thanksgiving from the college camp is being accountable. Even if it's hard due to some things being normalized, he was reminded to still hold himself accountable and do it not only for himself, but to glorify God, as well.

Many of those who came, including the staff, were grateful in the silence and solitude activity. They experienced clarity in what God wanted to say through silence and solitude. This segment had 5 stations where they could reflect: the cross where the students could cast their burdens at the cross of Christ, the mirror where they could remind themselves of their identity in Christ, the shattered heart which shows that God can bring healing, the bowl where they dropped their burdens to let go of a hurtful past, and the stone where they wrote down who God is and helped them to stand on the truth about God.

College life can be tiresome and this is the time our students will experience a lot of pressure. With this in mind, we are grateful to the Lord that we were able to create a venue for our students to just breathe, rest and experience God's presence. ✨

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