

# Brave Heart

(Courage in a World of Compromise)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, July 11/12, 2015

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## “Who’s Eyes Matter?” Judges 13:1-25

What is the absolutely best thing about the Christian life? It is discovering and enjoying the presence of God! Today we meet a couple who encounter the presence of God and their lives are never the same. The more you hang out in the throne room of the powerful and personal King of the Universe, the more you’ll be satisfied and the less you’ll be intimidated by life.

### Judges 13:1

- Sin does not ultimately consist of violating our conscience, or our personal standards or community standards, but is violating God’s will revealed in God’s Word. The Phrase “did evil in the eyes of the Lord” 7xs (3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 12:11; 13:1) In the double conclusion of the book it says the same thing in a different way: “in those days...everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (17:6; 21:25).

### Verses 2-4

5 Observations: 1) no cry of repentance. 2) This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time a Judge is promised before birth. 3) This is a promise given to a barren woman, who is nearing old age without kids. 4) We are never told her name. 5) She is not a God-seeking woman because she is told to stay away from unclean things (v4).

- God doesn’t love us because we are lovable, but in order to make us lovable. Deut7:7-8; Rom5:6-11

### Verses 5-7

- The Bible isn’t basically about ME and what I must DO, but it is basically about GOD and what He has DONE. v5; John5:39; Luke24:27, 44
- Salvation is more than agreement with facts in the head it’s an appetite for God in the heart that says, “I believe what you have promised and I will do whatever you say.” Vv6-7
- Spiritual disciplines increase our capacity to enjoy God and live all of life before the face (eyes) of God. Vv4-5, 7 Nazirite vow (Number 6:1-21) 1Tim4:7-8; 1Cor9:24-27

### Verses 8-16

- There must be atonement for sins to restore our relationship with God. vv16, 22; Heb9:11-28; Rom3:26
- God is closer than you think and more eager to connect with you than you can imagine but you must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. V16; Gen28:16; Ps46:10; Luke 10:38-42

### Verses 17-25

- God’s approval and presence are the greatest treasure and pleasure in the Universe. V18 “Wonderful” = beyond understanding. It is too wonderful for a human to grasp. vv19-20, 23; Ps16:11, 27:4, 84:1-2,10
- What we need more than anything is not explanation but greater revelation of who God is and what He has done for us. vv12,17-18; Dan11:32 The people who know their God shall stand firm & take action.
- The Gospel is doing its work in us when we crave to know God and to see His Kingdom advance in the lives of others more than anything (more than money, romance, family, health, fame, etc.). vv24-25; 2Pet3:18; Acts1:8

### Growing Notes

- 1) What is absolutely the best thing about the Christian life? What does it mean to discover and enjoy the presence of God? Why do you think those who hang out in the throne room of the King of the Universe are satisfied and not intimidated by life?
- 2) Read Judges 13:1-25. What stands out to you from this text? What does it mean that “Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD”? How is this downward cycle different from others? What do you think the wife was feeling (v3)?
- 3) How did Manoah respond to his wife’s story (vv6-8)? What does God’s second visit to Samson’s parents add to the first (vv11-23)? What does God reveal about Himself to Samson’s parents (vv16-21)? Consider the announcement of Jesus’ birth in Luke 1:31. How is this passage similar to that account? How would Samson’s birth have begun to prepare Israel for the coming of Christ?
- 4) Review the 10 points from the sermon notes and corresponding verses and cross references. Which one(s) are most comforting and which one(s) are most convicting? What is God speaking to you from this study? What are some next steps you can take to enjoy God’s presence more consistently & deeply? Pray.