

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM MARCH 2, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Judges 14:3-4

"Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me." 4 However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel."



Have you ever known anyone who wasted his or her life? Someone who, based on the subjective standards of the world, appears to have great potential because of their intelligence or creativity or personality and yet never lived up to your expectations of those qualities? Samson is perhaps the most well-known of all of the judges. There have been times when he has been held up as a hero, but in reality he may be the worst of the judges recorded in this book. If anyone knew what Samson's potential was, it would have been his parents.

Think of the anguish Manoah and his wife experienced as they observed Samson's disdain for his calling as a Nazirite. How many sleepless nights were there for these godly parents when they realized that in spite of their desire to raise Samson to be a godly young man, he had every intention of going his own way? While some might argue that they did not do enough to stop him from marrying a Philistine wife, they did clearly express their displeasure and sought to persuade him to marry an Israelite woman. In spite of their efforts, Samson was intent on going his own foolish way, more interested in satisfying his desires than in fulfilling his spiritual calling.

Here's the beautiful thing: Samson's sin would neither hinder nor thwart God's purposes. Samson would be a deliverer, or, in the words of the Angel of the Lord, he would *begin* to deliver Israel from the Philistines. God's purposes are vastly greater than anything we can imagine. What Samson's parents could not see at the moment was that God would use Samson as an unwilling instrument, and thus He would accomplish everything that He had purposed.

In times like ours, things certainly look bleak, spiritually speaking. Our nation has forgotten and forsaken its spiritual roots. Christians are no longer respected as they once were, and there are indications that greater persecution is coming for those who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and believe that the Bible is His inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word. We see Congress out of control, proposing legislation that would have seemed preposterous only a few years ago. Are we as Christians wringing our hands, as though God's promises and purposes are at risk? Unlike Samson's parents, we have been told what God is going to do in the future, and we have also been assured that no power on earth can thwart His plans and purposes. The very things over which we may be agonizing may be what God is using to accomplish His sovereign will.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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MARCH 2014													
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29							
30	31	1	2	3	4	5							

March 2014

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

Love Lifted Me

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/l/o/v/lovelift.htm>

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/l/o/v/love_lifted_me.mid

"He was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' He said, 'why did you doubt?'"

Matthew 14:29-31

Words: James Rowe, 1912.

Music: Howard E. Smith



James Rowe (1865-1933)

Rowe & Smith wrote this song in Saugatuck (now part of Westport), Connecticut. According to Rowe's daughter: Howard E. Smith was a little man whose hands were so knotted with arthritis that you would wonder how he could use them at all, much less play the piano...I can see them now, my father striding up and down humming a bar or two and Howard E. playing it and jotting it down.

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,
But the Master of the sea, heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

Refrain

Love lifted me! (even me) Love lifted me! (even me)
When nothing else could help Love lifted me!
Love lifted me! (even me) Love lifted me! (even me)
When nothing else could help Love lifted me!

All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling
In His blessed presence live, ever His praises sing,
Love so mighty and so true, merits my soul's best
songs,

Faithful, loving service too, to Him belongs.

Refrain

Souls in danger look above, Jesus completely saves,
He will lift you by His love, out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea, billows His will obey,
He your Savior wants to be, be saved today.

Refrain

March 2014

March 2	8:45 a.m.	The Lion, The Wench, & The Wardrobe	Judges 14-15
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
March 5		Ash Wednesday	
March 4	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home	
March 7	7:00 p.m.	Game Night	
March 9	8:45 a.m.	Bringing Down the House	Judges 16
	10:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
March 11	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home	
March 14	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship	
March 16	8:45 a.m.	Doing What is Right In Your Own Eyes	Judges 17-18
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
March 17		St. Patrick's Day	
March 18	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home	
March 21	7:00 p.m.	Game Night	
March 23	8:45 a.m.	Israel's Sodom & Gomorrah	Judges 19-21
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
March 25	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home	
March 28	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship	

Attacks on religious freedom amount to 'sophisticated warfare' on Christians, say top journalist, legal scholars

[HTTP://WWW.CHRISTIANPOST.COM/NEWS/](http://www.christianpost.com/news/)

By PAUL STANLEY, CHRISTIAN POST REPORTER

• FEB. 26, 2014 | 1:02 PM

NASHVILLE – Public policy experts at this year's National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville asserted that the government religious liberty and freedom issues facing Christians today are fundamentally and intrinsically tied to the future of culture in America.

Janet Parshall, host of the daily radio talk show "In the Market," moderated a panel on Tuesday that included Todd Starnes of Fox News, Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice, Pastor Rafael Cruz, father of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), and NRB Sr. VP and Chief Legal Counsel Craig Parshall.

Janet Parshall said finding the subject matter for this year's event was not difficult. "It took us about three nano-seconds to decide what we were going to discuss here today," joked Parshall. "It's the most important issue Christians are facing today."

The forum's primary theme centered around how government is undercutting the basic rights Americans have enjoyed since its founding, touching on the overreach of agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Communications Commission.

Craig Parshall, Janet's husband and an expert on religious liberty issues, pointed out the connection between social issues and how they tie into the loss of freedom many in our country have encountered in recent years. He made a particular reference to private for-profit companies who

are refusing to comply with the HHS mandate handed down by the Obama administration last year that requires large employers to provide birth control for their employees.

"The Hobby Lobby issue is about abortion, but more importantly, it's about religious liberty," said Craig Parshall. "This is sophisticated warfare we are involved in."

The two agencies most often associated with generating the most controversial headlines on religious liberty issues in recent months have been the IRS and the FCC. In 2013 evidence was uncovered that IRS employees in the Cincinnati, Ohio office went too far in investigating and delaying the granting of non-profit status to groups aligned with the Tea Party movement. More recently, the FCC has made threats about investigating and ultimately controlling how journalists and media outlets investigate, write and report the news.

Sekulow, a Jewish born attorney who later converted to Christianity, is the founder and Chief Legal Counsel of the ACLJ. He is on the frontlines in the fight for religious liberty and has argued the issue multiple times in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, making the case that government overreach is not warranted in America.

"The government targeting anyone is wrong. Period," Sekulow said in referencing the IRS and FCC issues. "And to make matter worst, the Department of Justice investigating the IRS is a meaningless exercise. But we need to be concerned that they thought they could actually do this."