



DATE	August 21, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	No Shave Clause
SERIES	The book of Judges contains some of the strangest stories you'll ever hear. These unusual stories are entertaining, confusing, dramatic and even a bit crazy. But they also contain deep spiritual insights and truths. You can't make this stuff up!

Out of control, over the top, a slave to his passions...not the typical picture of a man used by God. Yet God did use Samson to accomplish His purposes in spite of his many character flaws. Let's explore further as we dive into another "strange story" from God's Word.

Icebreaker

Do you know anyone like Sampson? Perhaps they have outward success but are out of control in other ways. What effect do these people have on the lives of those around them? What effect does their lack of self-control have on their own lives? How do you think God uses such people for his purpose?

Exploring Scripture

Samson was a man of extremes. Yet the characteristics noted in today's message can emerge, to a lesser degree, even in a believer. What does God's word say about:

Violence: Romans 12:19-21; Ephesians 4: 26, 27, 31

Impulsiveness: Proverbs 13: 1; Proverbs 15: 5, 18

Sexual addiction: Psalm 119: 9 - 11; Galatians 5: 19 - 25; 1 Cor. 6: 15 - 20

Emotional immaturity: Hebrews 5: 12, 13; 1 Peter 2: 3, 4

Selfishness: Philippians 2: 4; Ephesians 5: 21

Pastor David stated that failure is usually a matter of erosion, rather than an explosion. What can we do to prevent this erosion, or drifting from God? Read James 1: 13 - 15; Psalm 1: 1, 2; Ephesians 6: 13 - 18 and discuss the ideas in each.

Application

David listed five traits that led to Sampson sabotaging God's plan for his life: Impulsiveness, being Unteachable, Self-reliance, Carelessness, and Pride. Do you see any of these in your life? To which of these traits do you feel most vulnerable? How can you protect yourself? Ephesians 6: 13-18

Samson demonstrates that God can use the wrong in our lives to accomplish his purpose. Have you experienced any examples of this in your life? What did you learn from the experience?

Let us strive to fight spiritual erosion in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit that we may always do God's "first choice" for our lives.