The Reason Strong Men Fail

The Sampson Syndrome

Men’s Bible Study

(based on the book The Sampson Syndrome by Mark Atterberry)

September 15, 2011

I. The story of Samson is the story of what might have been. Judges 13:3-5;24

II. Strong Men tend to have no boundaries. Matthew 7:13-14
   a. We want to set our own boundaries and determine our own fate. Judges 14:1-2
   b. We ignore the boundaries that God has set for us.
   c. We ignore the dangers and fail to learn the lessons of close escapes. 16:1-3
   d. Boundaries are designed to keep us on track and out of trouble.
   e. Without boundaries at least two things will happen in our lives.
      1. We will be shackled by our sin. 16:20-21
      2. We will be shamed by our conduct. II Samuel 12:11-12; Zephaniah 1:12
   f. You can be spared.
      1. Remember the joy of living within God’s boundaries
      2. Give up any activity that has lured you outside God’s boundaries in the past. John 1:9
      3. Rebuild the fences that you have broken down.
      4. Rejoice in the mercy and grace of a forgiving God. Matthew 11:28

III. Questions for discernment
   a. What are some of the boundaries that God has set in your life?

   b. Are there boundaries that you have established in your own life? Have they accomplished what you hoped they would?

   c. How would you feel about undertaking an intensive program of self-discipline and personal sacrifice for two months?

   d. Are there areas in your life where you have crossed the boundaries? What immediate steps can you take to start getting back within the boundaries?