

June 14, 2007

WFMCC Weekly Superhero Samson

*"...A razor has never come on my head,
for I have been a Nazirite to God from my
mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my
strength will leave me and I shall be like
any other man."*

--Judges 16:17



Dear Friends,

This Sunday we begin the "superhero" portion of our Summer Cinema Sermon Series, starting with Samson from the book of Judges. We may all be familiar with some of the details about Samson. Perhaps we learned about his superhuman strength in Sunday School, and about how he was tricked by Delilah, who cut his hair. Once his long hair was gone, his awesome power left him as well, and he died as a captive of the Philistines. (If you aren't familiar with his tale, come to church this Sunday for the full story.)

In some ways Samson seems like something of a biblical cartoon character, and it is true that he is one of the most colorful characters in the Hebrew scriptures. And yet, he was a very complex figure, full of contradiction and a slave to his desires. He was a human being caught between both his secret strength and his very public vulnerability. Samson's story is one of violence, love and lust, and would probably be given at least a PG-13 rating in our theaters today. This Sunday we will learn all about this very interesting actor on God's stage, and about what his life has to say to you and I about our strengths and vulnerabilities. I hope to see you there as we bring the curtain up once again on our biblical "movie" for this week.

Many blessings,

Lea

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1. Summer Cinema Sermon Series Continues

As we look ahead to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender film series the church will be hosting in August for Pride Week, we will also be exploring a different kind of "cinema" in sermons throughout the summer. What kind of movies do you like best during the summer? Romances? Superhero flicks? Blockbusters? Did you know you can find all three in the Bible?



From May 27 - August 26 the sermons on Sunday mornings will highlight some of the great romances and superheroes of the Bible, plus that great biblical blockbuster, the Book of Revelation. This Sunday will be all about our first superhero of the Bible, Samson, from the book of Judges in the Hebrew scriptures. Next week our focus will be on Deborah, also from the book Judges.

2. Only You Can Prevent Summertime Sag!

Summer is a great time for having fun in the sun, but during the summer months please remember that WFMCC never goes on vacation. We still need you to keep our ministries going strong. If you are out of town on vacation, please remember us in your prayers...and when you are in town, come to church and receive the rest and renewal your spirit will receive in worship. It takes all of us to prevent "summertime sag!"

3. Parking at WFMCC

On Sunday mornings, please leave the spaces in front of the church building open for those with mobility issues and our first-time visitors. Thank you!

4. Upcoming Membership Class

The next class for those who would like to become members of Wichita Falls MCC, or for those who are interested in learning more about membership, will be held on Sunday, June 24th at 1 p.m. Four people are currently signed up, and there is still room for a few more. Please let Lea know if you would like to attend.

5. UFMCC By-Laws Forum This Sunday

At our upcoming General Conference in Scottsdale, July 2 - 6, our denomination will be voting on a number of changes to our by-laws. We will be having a Forum this Sunday, June 17th, immediately after our 11 a.m. worship service to review these changes and vote on them as a congregation. Everyone is welcome to attend and everyone has a voice at the meeting; only WFMCC members may vote.

6. 10-4-20 Change Drive Continues

Between now and the end of 2007, we are collecting loose change as a fundraiser for the church. Our goal is to receive 10 gallons of change for the next 20 years at WFMCC. There are two five-gallon containers at the back of the church where you can put your change, and cups are available that are labeled 10-4-20 to collect your coins at home or in your car or at work. Together we can make it all the way to 10 gallons by December 31st!



7. WFMCC Praise and Worship Band

Our fabulous Praise and Worship Band, which gave their debut performance at our 20th Anniversary Revival, will be back again on Sunday, June 24th at our Sunday morning worship service. They will begin 30 minutes before the service, and will play throughout our time of worship as well. This will be an especially great Sunday to bring your friends to church - don't miss it!

8. Break the Barrier Update

This Sunday is a "Break the Barrier" Sunday, when we will be receiving an offering for our fund that will provide the resources we need to hire a full-time director of music and worship. The current total of the fund is \$2,261. Amount needed: \$36,000.

9. TruBluU Hot Dog Night

In partnership with Odds, TruBluU is sponsoring a Hot Dog Night this Friday,

June 15th at 6:00 p.m. Stop by Odds for free hot dogs, chili and soft drinks that we will enjoy together outside. Everyone is invited, and young people ages 13 to 25 are especially welcome.

Flyers are available at the church about the event. Please help us spread the word about TruBluU, Wichita Falls' first ever support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and questioning young people. For more information please call the church office at (940) 322-4100.

10. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for patient bosses...for family...for Laretta...for life, love, health and happiness...for Nicole's new job...**Prayer requests** for the Walker family...for Ron, Greg and Samantha...for Aunt Dorothy...for Laretta...for Melvin's friend Marion who just lost her father...for Cheryl's foster mom Johnny May who is in the hospital with fluid around her heart...for Glenn and his mother's recovery...for encouragement for Grant...for strength for Pam and Ginger.

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