



### Part 3 | Should've Seen It Coming

We all have places we want to end up in life. Yet the paths we choose often lead us away from our intended destinations. Poor decisions over time can send us down the wrong road leading us to a place we never wanted to go. The message this week looked at missteps that Samson made over time that cost him dearly: he didn't take his enemy seriously, he rationalized the same old sin, and he assumed his disobedience would never cost him.

**Bottom Line:** The path you are on determines your destination, not your intentions

### Discussion Questions

1. Choose one opening question:
  - a. Describe a time when your intentions didn't lead to the result for which you were hoping.
  - b. What is one of the biggest mistakes you've ever made? What stated you on down that path?
2. Read Judges 16:1-3. Samson, apparently by himself, went to Gaza, deep into enemy territory. His actions reveal that he did not take his enemy seriously. The text doesn't tell us, but why do you think he didn't take his enemy seriously?
3. Read 1 Peter 5:8 and Ephesians 6:10-12. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 the highest, what level of urgency do Peter and Paul describe the threat of the enemy?
  - a. What is your view of the threat Satan poses today?
  - b. Why do you think a growing number of Christians don't take Satan or the threat he poses, more seriously?
4. Twice in Judges 16:1-21 we see Samson getting involved with women with whom he should never have been involved. In some way, he was able to rationalize his sin. What questionable activities (or sins) do you see people commonly rationalize?
  - a. In the message a comment was made, "If you have to 'rationalize' it, then it's not rational." Why do you agree or disagree with this statement?
  - b. What activity (it doesn't have to be sinful) may you need to stop rationalizing?

5. In the end, Samson assumed his disobedience to God would never cost him. But it did. He failed to see that the path he was on led to his demise (Judges 16:21). Why do people often fail to connect the path they travel with where they will end up?
6. Samson kept making missteps during his life. At the end of the message, the question was posed: Where are you stepping away from God? If you are willing, share your answer to that question with the group.
7. What has been the most helpful or encouraging thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?