나눔 메모

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1 November 2026 · Wellington Letter of Christ Church

Even When I Go My Own Way, God's Will Prevails.

God Nurtures Us with His Passionate Love

Small Group Discussion Guide · 2 Corinthians 11:2

Bible Passage

2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV) "For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."

Sermon Summary

Today's message explores God's passionate love for us—his "divine jealousy"—and how he works through the events and uncertainties of our lives. He is preparing us to be Christ's pure bride: people whose hearts are fully devoted to Jesus. Samson, one of Israel's judges, followed his own desires and disobeyed God. Yet God used the clash between Samson's desires and the Philistines' greed to carry out his plan of judgement. God can fulfil his purposes through our obedience and even through our disobedience, but this does not mean he causes or approves of sin. He is at work to draw us closer to himself and shape us to reflect his character. The key question is not simply what happens to us, but whether it draws us closer to God.

Related Bible Passages

1. Judges 14:4 — Even in the midst of Samson's sinful choices, this verse says that "it was from the LORD". God was at work despite Samson's disobedience.
2. Job 33:29–30 — God works again and again in a person's life to rescue them from the pit and bring them into the light of life.
3. Psalm 119:71 — The psalmist recognises that his suffering helped him learn God's ways.
4. Judges 14:3 — Samson says, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes." His words reveal how confidently he followed his own desires.

Helpful Background

The sermon identifies Samson as one of five biblical figures whose births were announced by an angel, alongside Ishmael, Isaac, John the Baptist and Jesus. Samson was set apart as a Nazirite—a person dedicated to God—and called to serve as a judge, a leader who would help rescue Israel. Yet, as the sermon points out, he lived as though these gifts and his calling made no difference. He pursued marriage on his own terms and touched things considered ritually unclean.

Discussion

1. Getting Started

1. Picture a parent knocking on their child's bedroom door with a plate of sliced fruit after an argument. Can you remember a time when you were turning away from God but felt him reaching out to you? Share a moment that comes to mind.
2. Samson described the woman as "right in my eyes". Have you ever pushed ahead with a decision simply because it was what you wanted, instead of listening to godly advice? Share an example you feel comfortable talking about.

2. Exploring the Word

1. Throughout the account of Samson's wrong choices, we also find the phrases "the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him" and "it was from the LORD". Read Judges 14 together. What actions did Samson take?
2. The preacher explains that God did not cause or encourage Samson's sin. Instead, he used the clash between Samson's desires and the Philistines' greed to create an opportunity for judgement. How does this help us understand the title, "Even When I Go My Own Way, God's Will Prevails"?
3. The sermon says, "What matters is not whether someone experiences good or bad things, but where those things lead them." Think of an event in your own life. How did it shape the choices you made or the direction of your life?
4. Have you ever wondered, "I'm trying to follow Jesus, so why do problems keep happening?" How did you respond? Did you lean on God more, or find yourself blaming him and pulling away? Share honestly.

3. Going Deeper

1. The sermon points out that Israel had grown used to living under Philistine oppression. Although they were suffering, they had no desire to fight back and did not cry out to God. Is there an area of your life or community where you have learnt to live with something painful rather than turning to God?
2. Samson had parents who trusted God, a calling to serve him and many gifts of grace. Yet he chose to live as though none of these mattered. Even if you have grown up in church or experienced God's goodness, is there an area of your life where you still insist on doing things your own way?

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4. Putting Faith into Practice

1. This week, when something does not go your way or you struggle to make sense of it, pause before complaining or blaming God. Try saying aloud, "God is using this to draw me closer to himself."
2. When you find yourself wondering why this is happening even though you believe in Jesus, begin with this prayer: "Help me depend on you more deeply." Try praying this before asking God to make the problem go away.

Try This Week

1. On your way to work, school or uni on Monday, think about something that has hurt you recently. Write one line in your notes in response to this question: "Where is this experience leading me?"
2. Over a meal at home, tell a family member—such as a parent, child or spouse—about an experience that was hard to understand at the time but helped you rely more on God.
3. As you reflect this week, share one sentence in your small group chat about what "God's passionate love" means to you.

Choose one of these activities to try this week, then share how it went at your next small group meeting.

Pray Together

- Ask God to help us trust his passionate love rather than complain when life does not make sense.
- Ask God to help us understand that true spiritual maturity means depending on him more deeply, not simply having all our problems solved.
- Ask God to show us where, like Samson, we have received his grace but still insist on following our own desires and doing things our own way.

Closing Prayer

Father God, thank you for your passionate love and for preparing us to be Christ's pure bride, wholeheartedly devoted to him. When life leaves us hurt, broken or overwhelmed, help us trust that you have not given up on us. Remind us that you love us and are drawing us closer to you. Even when things do not go our way, your purposes still stand. Help us let go of our complaints and humbly trust you, knowing that your greatness is beyond our understanding. Rather than only asking you to solve our problems, teach us to depend on you more deeply and draw closer to you through them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.