

AT THE MOVIES

Maverick: “Top Gun”

October 3, 2021 Message Notes

JUDGES 13-16

“At The Movies” series is back and “Top Gun” is our featured film today! What about discovering our calling can we learn from their stories?



NOTES

Samson was a leader, gifted and trained to protect God's people against their enemies. But he faced some deep internal battles and made some extremely foolish choices in the process. The same could be said of Lieutenant Pete Maverick in Top Gun.

Traits in Common:

- Gifts. Charisma. Natural leaders. Strong. Attractive. Sense of humor
- Not the best or wisest decision makers
- Pride. Ego. Anger. Impulsive

What Can We Learn from their Stories?

1. Know your gifts. Develop your potential. Play to your strengths.

Maverick is a stand-out fighter pilot.

Samson is gifted with strength and a calling from God as a warrior/judge.

What are you good at? What are your strengths? What's your calling?

God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 PETER 4:10

Discovering and developing your gifts isn't just for church, it's for life and vocation. Pursue them with excellence.

Maverick wasn't there to be average – he wanted to rise.

God had a plan for Samson's life and gifts, but he never tried to fully discover his calling or develop his gifts.

2. Be self-aware. Deal with your feelings, your inner life and story line.

Who are you and why do you do what you do?

What are your triggers? Your wants and needs?

Maverick sees himself as the best of the best, so much so that he is beyond the rules that govern others. He doesn't need a team and doesn't need advice or to follow commands.



Samson doesn't feel the need to listen to his parents or anyone else. He feels what he feels, wants what he wants, and is most motivated by anger, revenge or physical appetite.

“Be careful how you think. Your life is shaped by your thoughts.”

PROVERBS 4:23

“Don't think you're better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves...Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all.”

ROMANS 12:3,16

“Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the Lord, ‘You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?’”

JUDGES 15:18

Feeling the need, the need for speed can often be code for something else that is going on in our lives, like avoidance or escape.

The self-aware ask - Who am I listening to? Am I listening to God? How have I prayed?

3. Learn from your mistakes. Grow from your failures. Trustworthy others can help.

How do you handle failure and guilt in your life?

Maverick is cleared of responsibility in the accident, but the guilt he feels impairs his ability to fly. Samson's hubris and multiple failures leave him blinded and bound by shackles, the object of ridicule by his enemies.

“O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”

JUDGES 16:28

It's never too late to pray and turn to God for strength.

Everyone's got a story. What's yours?

Where have you come from? Where are you now? How will it end?

What role have you taken on?

God is watching and listening; ready to respond when we reach out in faith.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

JEREMIAH 29:13



Jesus shows us how to face the guilt of our mistakes, the fears of our past and future, the certainty of death that awaits us all.

Jesus shows us how to rise with Him together with his people, his church, and seize the opportunity this life presents and make a real difference in this world.

Just because you experience failure doesn't mean you are one. Jesus is our model, not Samson or Maverick. Jesus died so others can live.

Next Steps:

- Failure? Turn to God for a new start.
- Opportunity? Discover your gifts and play to your strengths.
- Emotionally stuck? Share your story with others for their insights

There was a time in my life...but then I turned to God and...

