

A Bad Hair Day

Part 4 of the *Stuck* series

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Text: Judges 16:4-22

Warning signs you're either in a rut of bad decisions or heading for one:

- You reject the wisdom of others.
- You feel entitled to do that which you know you shouldn't.
- You continually flirt with disaster.
- When it comes to consequences, you think you're bullet-proof.

You are free to make whatever choice you want but you are not free from the consequences of that choice.

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

Judges 16:21 NIV

Staying stuck in a rut of bad decision-making leaves a person enslaved, blind, & helpless.

But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Judges 16:22 NIV

The mess caused by your bad decisions is never beyond God's ability to heal & restore.

Getting out of and avoiding the rut of bad decisions takes being humble enough to...

- Accept the wisdom of others.
- Know your limit and don't even think of flirting with it.
- Realize that you really do need God's help...in everything.

God will work through your bad decisions & mistakes but there's a better way.

Next Steps

Pray this prayer: *Lord, I am stuck in a rut of bad decisions. I'm trying to do life on my own and it's not working. I humbly ask for your help. Help me listen to the wisdom of others. Help me know my limits and give me strength to resist the temptation to flirt with it. I've made a mess of things in so many areas. I ask that you would heal & restore. Amen*

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- We could probably spend a long time talking about the messes caused by all our bad decisions; instead, tell about one that's happened in the last week (big or small).
- Honest moment...ask those in the group to rate on a scale of 1-10 how willing you are to accept the wisdom of others. If low, why do you think that is?
- What are some consequences you've had to live with due to a bad decision?
- Tell about an unresolved, broken mess that's been caused by a bad decision(s). What would it look like if God were to heal & restore that mess? Pray that God would begin to do that and reveal the part He'd like you to play in that.