

# Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday May 4, 2014

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Musical Praise & Worship

Junior Church

Family Prayer

Scripture Reading..... Judges 8:1-35

Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

## THE SEDUCTIVE POWER OF SUCCESS

Lord's Supper

Final Song

Benediction

### Memory Work for Junior Church:

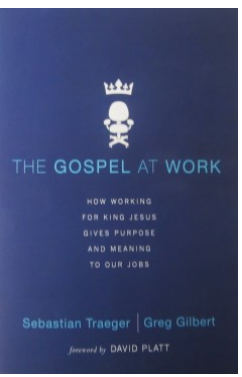
#### Younger Elementary

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

#### Middle Elementary

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

### New in the Rosedale Library:



#### "The Gospel at Work"

A book by Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert. How working for King Jesus gives purpose and meaning to our jobs. How to be a Christian in the workplace.

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### Families of the Week

Please remember to encourage and pray for the following families this week.

<u><b>Monday</b></u>	Denis, Gaston & Kim
<u><b>Tuesday</b></u>	Denis, Esther
<u><b>Wednesday</b></u>	Denis, David
<u><b>Thursday</b></u>	DinFowler, Nikki Tianna
<u><b>Friday</b></u>	Dodge, Nick
<u><b>Saturday</b></u>	Doiron, Brenda

# Rosedale Baptist Church



Reaching up....

Reaching in....

Reaching out...

11 Rosedale Place  
Welland, ON L3B 1J2  
905-735-0788  
Pastor: John C. Bellingham

[www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com](http://www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com)

## This Week at Rosedale

Monday: Youth Group – 6:30 pm  
Tuesday: Men’s Study – 9:30 am  
Wednesday: Prayer and Praise – 7:00 pm  
Saturday: Ladies’ Study – 8:00 am  
Sunday: Christian Foundations – 9:00 am  
Corporate Worship – 10:30 am

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**Welcome Visitors:** We are glad you are with us today! If this is your first time visiting Rosedale please fill out the welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate, or give it to one of our ushers. Nursery and Junior Church are available for children age 9 and under.

**Christianity Explored:** If you are curious about what Christians believe or want an opportunity to ask questions about faith in a non-threatening environment consider coming to ‘Christianity Explored’. Email Pastor John if interested and we will try to get a group going soon:  
john.c.bellingham@gmail.com

**True Women Conference 2014:** Registration is now open for an excellent women’s conference this Fall in Indianapolis. Speakers will include Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Joni Eareckson Tada, Mary Kassian, and Jim Cymbala. Musical worship will be led by Keith and Kristyn Getty. If you’re interested in hearing more, please speak to Leslie Bellingham and visit [www.truewoman14.com](http://www.truewoman14.com)

## The Seductive Power of Success

### **Judges 8:1-35**

- The story of Gideon in Judges 6-8 outlines two dramatic transformations in the life of this Judge. In chapter 7 he is transformed by God’s Spirit from a Coward to a Conqueror. In chapter 8 he is transformed by sinful pride from a Conqueror to a Compromiser.  
- The last chapter of Gideon’s life stands as a timeless warning against the seductive power of success

### **I. Corruption of Morals (vv. 1-21)**

- 1) Gideon’s Two-Faced Diplomacy
  - a. Flatters opponents who are stronger (Ephraim)
  - b. Threatens opponents who are weaker (Succoth and Penuel)
- 2) Gideon’s Personal Vendettas
  - a. The ‘sword of the Lord’ gives way to the ‘sword of Gideon’ in stage 2 of the battle
    - i. Pursues two defeated Midianite Kings 100 miles east of the Dead Sea!
    - ii. Takes personal revenge on these Midianite Kings for the death of his brothers
  - b. Brutal Revenge on his Israelite Brethren
    - i. Tortures the men of Succoth
    - ii. Murders the men of Penuel

**Application:** Let us never refuse to extend to others the same grace and mercy that we ourselves have received from the Lord. Success can easily cause us to forget the grace of God.

### **II. Corruption of Motives (vv. 22-)**

- 1) Gideon’s Political Presumption
  - a. Gideon honours God with his words (v. 23)

- b. Gideon honours himself with his actions
  - i. Exacts tribute from the people (over 40 pounds of gold!!)
  - ii. Keeps the royal treasure of Midian for himself
  - iii. Establishes a harem and a dynasty
  - iv. Marries a Canaanite woman in violation of God’s Law
  - v. Names his son ‘Abimelech’ (means ‘my father is king’)

**Application:** If our theology (beliefs about God) does not influence the way we live our daily lives there is a spiritual problem somewhere that needs attention.

- 2) Gideon’s Religious Presumption
  - a. He makes a golden Ephod (priestly garment) presumably for himself
    - i. Used for divination
    - ii. Limited by Law to the Levites
    - iii. Only Jesus Christ has the right to be both a King and a Priest!
  - b. He sets up a new centre for worship in Ophrah
  - c. He leads a new generation back into the old ways of idolatry

### **Sermon Notes:**

