



“Lessons From Samson” (Judges 13-16)

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Intro:

1. Blonde guy joke
2. I Timothy 4:16

It is possible to continue to believe sound doctrine, but allow your life to drift away to a lifestyle that does not reflect what you really believe. Our example to learn from: Samson.

I. SAMSON’S CALLING/COMMITMENT/POWER

- A. His Calling (Judges 13:1-5); “Set apart to God from birth”
- B. His Commitment (Num.6:1-8); No fermented drink, grapes, grape juice, raisins, no razor on his head, not to go near a dead body.
- C. His Power

* He was not a Gold’s Gym kind of guy...he probably looked like me! Except he had hair...

II. THE THREE AREAS OF SAMSON’S FAILURE

- A. Lust of the Eyes (13:24-14:4)
 - * This woman was not God’s will for his life.
 - * Remember Balaam (see Num.22:12a, 21-22, 32)
 - * People can lust for all kinds of things, but the greatest problem I have had is lust for women. Men love to look, don’t they? After becoming a Christian, I knew I had to develop some self-control in this area. One of the first scriptures I put to memory was Psalm 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes...
 - * Illus: At Myrtle Beach, saw this “babe” and ran into the light pole.

* Note: In our present world you don't have to go to Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach comes to you! (internet, TV, movies, etc.)

B. Lust of the Flesh (14:5-9)

- * It is quite interesting to me the place and timing of this lion coming against Samson. Where was it? It was "as they approached the vineyards of Timnah." One of the things that Samson is to abstain from is anything from the grapevine. The message here is unmistakable. This is the place of temptation. And when was it? It was when Samson was on his way to engage in a romantic relationship that was not God's will for his life. And guess what? Even though he defeats the lion (by the power of God), he still falls to temptation. The honey in the lion's carcass was unclean for Samson. Why did he eat it? Because it was so sweet.
- * Sometimes we resist a straight on attack from the enemy, then Satan sets up a more subtle and seductive temptation. That's what happened to the Israelites in Num.25:1-2 (Balaam).
- * Satan is not looking to devour those that are not stirred by the Spirit of the Lord...Satan does not tempt us randomly. He looks for the opportune time to seduce us. See Eph.6:13; Luke 4:1-13 (note v.13).
- * Tammy and Facebook
- * Note: The honey would have been OK to partake of if it had not been in the lion's carcass. This made it unclean.
- * Heb.13: 4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
- * Note: This is a **daily** battle!
- * Winning the daily battle
 - Flee (I Cor.6:18; Gen.39:6b-12)
 - Fortify; my mind (Rom.12); my will (I Thess.4:3-5)
 - Fight the battle daily (I Cor.15:31; David and Bathsheba)

C. Pride of Life (14:10-18)

- * Prov.16: 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.
- * Samson's pride is aided by the fact that, even though he has sinned, the hammer has not come down upon his life.
- * Num.32:23... you may be sure that your sin will find you out.

III. PAUSE & CONSIDER

- * When hell huddles, it calls one of three plays – lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, or the pride of life (I John 2:15-17).
- * James 1: 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.
- * The mark of a man of God is not a man who is not tempted. No, the mark of a man of God is a man who, though tempted, resists the temptation, denies the natural sinful desires of his fleshly nature, and keeps in step with the Spirit.
- * Samson, though beginning with the Spirit, is not keeping in step with the Spirit. And if he continues down the path he is on, he is headed for trouble. And indeed trouble he eventually gets.

IV. THE DOWNWARD SPIRITUAL SPIRAL OF SAMSON'S LIFE (14:19-16:21)

A. God's Power Is Still Upon Samson (14:19a)

- * Was God's power still upon Jim Baker, Jimmy Swaggart, and others like them during their failure?

B. Samson's Future Failures

1. Unrighteous rage (14:19b)

- See Gal.5:20...fits of rage...
- He loses his wife as a result of his anger (14:20).

2. A spirit of revenge (15:1-11)

- Though God is against the Philistines, Samson's attitude is all wrong here.
- Samson loses good relations with his own people (15:12a).

3. Careless, impulsive mistakes (15:12b-17)

- This fresh jawbone of a donkey was unclean for Samson. But despite another foolish mistake, the power of God is still upon his life. How do you explain that? See 15:18-19, the grace of God; (be sure to skip v.20).
- God does not want to have to humble Samson. He wants Samson to come to his senses, repent, and stop his foolish ways. Unfortunately, he doesn't. And what one might never have thought would happen to a man that somehow ended up in the hall of faith (Heb.11), happens next...

4. A one night stand (16:1)

- Samson's love life has failed (and it was his own fault), he goes off in a fit of rage, loses his wife in the process, goes off in another rage against the Philistines, ruins his relationship with his own people. He is a picture of a man who has not developed self control in his life, especially self-control regarding his lust for women.
- See Gal.5:19 (sexual immorality first on the list).
- See Gal.5:22 (self-control).
- Note: The power of God is still upon his life! (see 16:2-3). These gates and posts would have been several thousand pounds, and Samson carried them 38 miles uphill!

5. Another romantic relationship out of the will of God (16:4)

- She loves money more than Samson (16:5-6); what an ungodly character this woman has!
- Delilah's relentless nagging to find out the secret of Samson's strength (16:7-16).
- Samson gives in (16:17).
- Samson is defeated (16:18-21).
- Note: Samson tears apart a lion with his bare hands, defeats 30 Philistines to pay off a bet, catches 300 foxes and ties them tail to tail, defeats 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, carries the gates and posts of the city of Gaza 38 miles uphill...and is ultimately defeated as a result of a romantic relationship with a woman who was not God's will for his life.
- Samson was a he-man with a she weakness. But it was not really Delilah that defeated Samson. Samson lost the blessing and power of God upon his life because of his failure to resist the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
- Samson ended up blind, bound, and going nowhere for God. He had a personal revival after hitting the wall, and there is a message in that for sure (summarize what happened). But in his revival he literally lost his life. There was no more opportunity for service to the Lord in this life. That's probably not true for some God is speaking to today.

- Read Judges 15:20; 16:31b; What I have just shared about Samson took place over a period of twenty years! If only Samson had had his revival **before** he was bound, blinded, and put to grinding in prison. Samson's life story is history, but yours is still being written.

V. SELF EXAMINATION

A. Vital Questions

1. Are you progressing in your walk with the Lord? Are you digressing in your walk with the Lord? (Gal.5:25).
2. Is there any hidden sin in my life?
 - Prov.28:13 he who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
 - Num.32:23...you may be sure that your sin will find you out.

B. Things To Consider

1. Who am I going to confess my sin to?
2. What areas do I need to develop self-control in?
3. Is there a relationship I need to break off, or at least set some holy standards for?
 - I Tim.5: ...2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.
 - Facebook, friend, church member
4. Who am I accountable to?
 - One of Samson's problems was that he was a very independent dude!
 - The ultimate accountability is to the Lord (example of Joseph in Egypt).
 - Dave Dodge and Art Dykstra
 - Eccl.4:12