



The Book of Judges

Lesson 10

Samson: The Weak Victor

Samson and all his actions against the Philistines have been nothing but self-serving. He has learned nothing from his life's lessons.

The pattern continues. Read Judges 16:1-3

- We see Samson's life has a pattern. He is reckless (goes to Gaza - the Philistine capital). His sexual addiction continues. He sleeps with a prostitute. He also goes into a secured city (Gaza).

Question: We see in Samson's life that his strength became his vulnerability. How can an outward gain in a person's present life become an inward loss?

We now can see how sin and grace function on two completely opposed bases.

- Grace: God takes our weaknesses and failures and uses them for us.
- Sin: We take even the gifts and strengths given by God and we use them against God himself.

Question: How have you experienced both sin and grace in your life redirected by a pattern of life that wasn't pleasing God?

Why Delilah? Read Judges 16:4-22

The name "Delilah" sounds like "the night". The word night is mentioned 4 times in verses 1-3, and the night became Samson's downfall.

Question: Have you ever experienced "the night", being a downfall or creating temptation in your life?

What would motivate a woman like Delilah, to betray her lover?

1. Greed – she was enticed by money.

2. She vindicated her people. She would become a national heroine (wealth, power, and influence).

Question: Have you ever been enticed to do something in order to get wealth, power, or influence (something against what is right)?

For some reason Samson lives in denial of how the woman he is having sex with really cares about him - a classic addiction syndrome.

Question: How do addictions put us in denial of what truth is?

We see a lot of passion here – but it was all done for self-enhancement. Samson is using Delilah to get sexual love and the thrill of danger. Delilah is using Samson to get fortune and fame. It's all about taking and nothing about giving.

Question: Why would a man or woman pass over someone who might have a great career or is even good looking in order to get the self-image they are looking for?

Samson's inner life and motivations show his lack of love he has for God. Even in his relationships with woman it's all about him.

Question: In what areas are you challenged in your marriage or in a relationship? Do you keep it from being self-seeking for you?

Samson has now lost his strength. It's important to note that God's power flows within a commitment to love and serve God.

Yahweh vs. Dagon. Read Judges 16:23-31

Samson's eyes are gouged out. His strength has been taken. He is now as weak as any other man. He is grinding grain in prison and is shackled. Samson is now broken.

In verse 22 we see Samson's hair growing back. The Nazarite vow is no longer. The consecration was now over. But the Lord has dedicated Samson, and God holds to his vows.

Michael Wilcock writes this: The Philistines knew nothing of God who does the unexpected (Ehud), whose strength is made perfect in weakness (Gideon), and who never brakes his word. That God has said that Samson would be a Nazarite to the day of his death (13:7). His abandonment of his servant could not be temporary. The promise was bound to hold, however Samson might despise it. There is grace.

Question: Where in your life do you need to rely on God's grace instead of your own strength? How would doing this change your actions and increase your joys?

For the first time Samson is exercising his faith. Brought out for display. Eyes gouged out, relying on someone else to place his hands. He now relies on God for his strength.

Question: Samson prays his first prayer in Judges 16:28. How have you prayed to God to receive his strength?

Read Hebrews 11:32-34. Samson was considered to be a man of faith. He was made strong again out of his weakness.

Samson asks God to remember him. It's now a humble request. He also asks God to strengthen him one more time.

Question: We see Samson acknowledging his dependence on God's grace. How have you depended on God's grace for your own life?

Becoming and continuing as a Christian is about becoming weak to become strong. Only those who admit they are unrighteous receive the righteousness of Christ.

Next week – final week.

Read Judges 17:1-31 Men Without Chests