



The Book of Judges

Lesson 8

Samson: A Miraculous Birth

Samson is the last of the God-appointed leaders in Judges. He is not famous for his incident with Delilah. Although his life is flawed, God still uses him in a mighty way.

Read Judges 13:1

- We see the phrase repeating itself, “did evil in the eyes of the Lord,” is used in Judges 2:11, 3:7 & 12, 4:1, 6:1, and 10:6. We also see it written by the writer that Israel did what was right in its own eyes.

Question: How will your life this week reflect the truth that God’s eyes matter more than yours?

Read: Judges 13:2-5

The Nazarite vow to which the angel refers is found in Numbers 6:1-21 and contains 3 basic stipulations:

1. You can’t cut your hair during the vow.
2. You can’t drink anything produced from a vine that is alcoholic or non-alcoholic.
3. You can’t have contact with any dead body.

Question: What 3 things, other than God, do you spend most of your time thinking about, become most excited about, care most about? How could these things become idols to you? How can you spot it happening?

There are two important ways in which the birth of Samson, and those of Isaac, Samuel and John, are different from that of Jesus. First: The other births happened in the shadow of disgrace. A woman who could not bear children lived under a cloud of shame.

- Jesus’s birth brought disgrace to mother and son.
- This reminds us that while other “saviors” gained honor and glory in order to do their work, Jesus lost all his honor and glory to do his work.

Second, The salvation Samson would bring would be incomplete. Only Jesus’ salvation is complete salvation, only he could finish the job. Matt. 1:21.

Question: God gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were (Romans 4:17). In which part of your life, or at which time of your day, do you most need to enjoy his truth?

Read Judges 13:6-8

Faith and obedience go hand in hand. Manoah and his wife believed what was said to them and raised Samson to live out his vow.

Question: What difference does it make to our obedience when we act out our faith in God's promises, rather than a grudging duty to obey?

Read Judges 13:9-25

The angel of the Lord reminds them that knowing all the rules to raise their son Samson is more than they could ever understand. Only a deep understanding of who God is can give them the guidance they need.

Question: In what parts of your life would you deep down like God to give you rules and answers, instead of himself?

What's in a name? Samson's name means "little sun." The sun was considered a god of the Canaanites. Another half-hearted worship with other nations. God's sun is called "Sun-son." God is always at work. Samson is the last judge in the book to rescue Israel.

Question: How has Jesus, the true rescuer, "rescued" you?

Next Week: Read Judges 14:1-15:20 Samson: The Womanizer