



The Book of Judges

Lesson 9

Samson: The Womanizer

The Lord had given Samson a godly heritage. He was raised to honor God, but when he fell in love, he wouldn't listen to his parent's warnings.

Read Judges 14:1-4

Samson's father objects to marrying a pagan, or uncircumcised Philistine woman. Circumcision by definition means "to be set apart", not marrying someone out of God's covenant (see Exodus 34:15-16).

Question: God's providential plan for all believers is to be equally yoked with a believing partner. Why is this essential in a marriage? How are you teaching this to your children?

In Sampson, we are seeing Israel writ small, in one man's life.

1. Sampson is impulsive. He is a completely sensual man. His senses control him.
2. Sampson is unteachable. He is dismissive of parental counsel and authority.

This also depicts Israel. They were impulsive and unteachable.

Question: What impulse drives you? Would you consider yourself teachable or unteachable?

Read Judges 14:5-20

A lion, a bet, and a woman. Quite a trio in young Samson's impulsive and unteachable life.

- Samson shows his disdain or uncaring concern for his Nazirite vow. He comes upon a young lion and kills it like a goat and then later returns to the dead carcass and pulls honey from it. He doesn't concern himself with the sin he just committed.

Question: Have you ever had a sin that was enticing to you? Did you ever return to the lust or the joy of it?

- Samson cannot control his senses or his temper. He kills 30 Philistines. Not for Israel's sake but for his own vengeance.

Question: How do you handle your anger? Does it get the best of you or do you keep it under control?

The Spirit of the Lord

- How could Samson kill the lion and strike down 30 Philistines? The Spirit of the Lord came upon him.
- God saves his people by divorcing them from their marriage to their idols.

Question: How can God use such flawed people like Samson to get his work done? Shouldn't he use only good people who are godly? Shouldn't he use only people with right beliefs and behavior? What do you think?

- Amazing truth! God works through sinners and through sinful situations. He keeps promises to bless his people in dark and disastrous times, even when things don't go right.

Question: Have you ever had such a time in your own life? God working even when you seemed flawed?

Read Judges 15:1-20

This chapter depicts leadership without peace.

- Each action prompts a reaction for retaliation. 3,000 men from the tribe of Judah (his own people) to take Samson captive and turn him over to the Philistines.
- Samson again forgets his Nazarite vow and grabs a jawbone from a dead donkey, killing 1,000 Philistine men.

Question: We see Samson praying to God for the first time. It is neither humble nor faithful, yet God helps him. Samson works from his own intellect (his life experiences). How can that be demonstrated in a selfish prayer life?

Gift-giving and fruit-growing. Samson has God's spirit, right? So, shouldn't we see God's holiness growing inside him?

Question: How can a man be so empowered by the Spirit, yet show no patience, humility, or self-control?

Read (on your own) 1 Corinthians 12 & 14. Paul tells about the gifts of the Spirit. Then read Galatians 5:22-23, the fruits of the Spirit.

- In our lives we will run across both men and women who have great gifts, yet they are very shallow in holiness and character.

It's all directed in a prayer life. We can seem religious on the outside but lack in inner-relational prayer with Christ.

Question: Your prayer life is the best indicator of your spiritual health. How's your spiritual health? What is the Spirit revealing to you?

Next week: Read Judges 16:1-31 Samson: The Weak Victor