

God's Superhero – Samson Judges 16:20-31

Introduction

About everyone knows the story of Samson and Delilah. Samson is one of the most unique men in Old Testament history. He lives a rather wild and reckless life and develops quite a questionable reputation but in the end is listed in the Book of Hebrews as one of the heroes of faith. There's no doubt Samson was a superhero. His enemies knew it. He knew he knew it. And all the girls knew he had superpowers. So you'd think he would know that some people would try anything to find the secret of his great strength so they could bring him down. Judges Chapter 16 gives us the story (Read).

The Philistines were the sworn enemies of Israel. So naturally they were very interested in learning the secret of Samson strength. They knew Samson was interested in a girl named Delilah so they bribed her with money to find out the secret to his great strength. Things haven't changed much have they? Some people will do just about anything for money.

The tragedy is Samson lost his power, his position and his testimony because he loved the sin he allowed into his life more than he valued the fellowship of God of his life. His lust for the pleasures of this life caused Samson to flirt with the devil one too many times and it cost him life.

So, I would like for us to take a closer look at the life of this man, Samson and see how we can avoid the same kind of trouble in our lives. Far too many believers today are live below their spiritual privileges. Samson was such a man. He clearly shows us that sin only causes problem but faith always offers solutions.

I. Samson Was a Man with Great Potential

Samson life began with great promise. Even his birth was miraculous (Read Judges 13:1-13).

His mother was to keep the covenant of the Nazarite vow. And Samson was to be a Nazarite. There were three things a Nazarite could not do:

1. He could not drink wine – it was a symbol of worldly pleasure.
2. He could not touch anything that was dead – it was a symbol of the curse.
3. He could not cut his hair – it was a symbol of reproach and being set apart from others.

As long as he was undefiled, he was undefeated. But sadly, Samson would break all of the rules. And even though it didn't catch up with him immediately how many of you know in the end there's always a price to pay.

Samson did, however, have some great accomplishments to add to his resume. Even today, people equate the name Samson with great strength. He was a member of the tribe of Dan and became one of the Judges of Israel. He judged in Israel for 20 years. With his great strength, he killed a lion with his bare hands (14:5-6), and later killed 1,000 Philistines with a jawbone of a donkey (15:4-7). Then at a city in Gaza he carried the city gates off Samson was always battling the Philistines. He did everything he could to prevent them from controlling Israel. However, the real secret of Samson's strength was the power of the Spirit that rested on him. He was blessed with miracle after miracle from the hand of God.

Like Samson, believers today can live a victorious life. Christ has redeemed us from sin by the grace of God, and we are now indwelt by the Spirit of God. We have the great privilege to know and read the Word of God and fellowship with God through prayer. When we follow the Holy Spirit's leading our lives should be marked by victories and blessings. Prayer, service to the Lord, witnessing, blessing others, all prove that we are different from the world. We have the potential to do great things for the glory of God.

II. Sampson was a Man with Great Problems

As great as Samson's strength and potential was, he was a man faced with many spiritual problems. These spiritual weaknesses would eventually override his physical power to make him the weakest strongman in history.

Samson may have battled the Philistines for over 20 years, but his greatest enemy was Samson! His own fleshly appetites proved to be his undoing. Instead of surrendering his body, soul and spirit to the will of the Lord, he allowed his flesh to control his life and he paid a high price. You can try to blame the devil for all your ills, but the greatest enemy we all face is ourselves! The truth is, every problem we face with temptation and sin in our lives, does not come from an external source, it originates within (James 1:14-15). It isn't the devil out to get you; it is you out to get yourself! Unfortunately your flesh is never going to get any better – Paul writes in Eph. 4:22, “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” We cannot give in to temptation; we must fight it every moment of every day.”

Samson was a Nazarite. His was to be a life dedicated totally to the Lord. Yet, he lived for himself, taking his vows for granted. He was deceitful, he was lustful, and he was proud and arrogant. It would almost seem that Samson had a bent toward evil within him. Of course, that could describe any one of us! The Old Testament uses three words to describe our sins (Read Psalms 32:1-5).

Sins - it means "*to miss the mark*". You have a proper goal but just miss attaining it.

Transgressions - means "*to step over the line*". It refers to intentionally breaking the Laws and commandments of the Lord. It when you know something is wrong and you do it anyway.

Iniquity - means "*bent or crooked*". It refers to the desire within human nature to do evil! There is a natural tendency within each of us to seek the lowest levels of life.

By the end of his career, Samson was facing some powerful addictions. He seems to be living a total lifestyle of sin. He has reached a place where he is numb to spiritual accountability and believes he is invincible. Character is the most valuable asset you have. Your testimony and reputation follow closely behind. Those who allow their testimony to become tarnished will never be able to restore it to where it was in the eyes of those who saw them fail! God will always forgive the repentant saint, but unfortunately some people will remember it to their dying day. Samson paid a terrible price for his sinfulness and failure to control his fleshly desires and impulses.

III. A Man Who Paid a Great Price

As a result of his sins, Samson suffered some pretty significant losses.

He Lost His Vision - 16:21 - (*Blind*) - Samson lost his physical sight.

Whenever a child of God lives a life under the control of the flesh, they will lose their eyesight. You may keep your physical vision, but you will lose your spiritual vision. Samson lost his vision for the Lord, His Word, His house, and God's people. He got totally lost in himself.

He Lost His Strength - 16:20-21 - (*Bind*) - Samson lost his physical strength when he surrendered the secret of that strength.

For the believer today, the danger of losing your spiritual power is great. When we cut ourselves off from God's blessings we won't be able to get a

hold of the Lord for our needs or the needs of others. We lose the peace of God in our lives. You can become so bound by sin that you cannot worship, or experience God, or enjoy His Word or His people. Sinful living carries with it the high price of sapping your spiritual strength and leaving you completely weak before the Lord!

He Lost His Victory - 16:21 - (*Grind*) – Samson is humiliated and made to do the work of grinding corn. It was given to him to humiliate him and is an indication of how weak he had become! Can you see this sad picture of a great man of God grinding corn for the Philistines? He lost his power, he lost his victory and now he is a pitiful spectacle! Nothing is as sad as a believer who has lost their connection with the God! The joy and peace is gone. They are defeated, discouraged and demoralized. That’s the reward of sin!

Conclusion

But for all of the pain Samson experienced, there are some great lessons that we can take away from the life of Samson.

Samson is a Lesson About Repentance - Before he died, Samson made things right with the Lord. He may have done it when it was too late to salvage much of his life. But he ended his life for the glory of God! It’s never too late to turn your life around. We don’t need to keep making the same mistakes our whole life. If you recognize the presence of evil in your lives, the time to deal with it is now (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9). Before you are forced to pay the ultimate price for your sins, you can always repent! Repentance can take place at any time!

Samson is A Lesson About Restoration - Samson renewed his vow and received his power back from the Lord. Whatever we may lose to sin, in a spiritual sense, the Lord can and will restore if we will repent. We may not gain back everything in the eyes of people, but they aren’t the ones who will sit in final judgment anyway. Through our repentance and God’s salvation He can cleanse us and use us and our experiences for His glory once more!

If things in your life are not where they need to be, there’s still time to come before the Lord and find the help and forgiveness you need. Just like the Prodigal Son found a loving, forgiving father back home, you will find a heavenly Father Who loves you and is ready to forgive you and restore you to the place you ought to be. In the end, Samson realized it is better to sacrifice in this physical life for the sake of doing what pleases the Lord and inheriting eternal life.