

Samson
Judges 13:1-5
Judges 14:8-9
Judges 16:15-21

I. Intro

- A. David was chosen by God and ran to the battle with great courage, and accomplished the Lord's will.
- B. Gideon was chosen by God, and reluctantly did as the Lord asked of him, and accomplished the Lord's will.
- C. Samson did everything wrong, and dealt with the pain and trouble that comes with that, and the Lord used him to accomplish His will.
 - 1. Samson was a flawed choice to Judge Israel
 - 2. Yet Samson is used by God
- D. If we see these three stories together:
 - 1. David's response to God was the ideal.
 - 2. Gideon's response to God was the real.
 - 3. Samson's pathway to responding to God...should be avoided.

II. Text

- A. Judges 13:1-5: Samson was born and set aside by God as a Nazarite
 - 1. Nazarite Vow: Numbers 6:3-7
 - a) Don't drink any wine or even eat grapes
 - b) Don't touch any dead thing
 - c) Don't cut your hair
 - 2. The Nazarite vow was similar to the Priestly vow
 - 3. The purpose of God's anointing of Samson: "and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."
- B. Judges 14:8-9: 1st recorded vow break: the lions carcass
- C. Judge 14:10-20: 2nd vow break: the wedding "feast" was a week long drinking party, it does not specifically say Samson broke the vow here, but it would appear that his judgment had been altered, so it can be assumed.
- D. Judges 16:15-21: 3rd vow break: His Hair
 - 1. Delilah kept on, Samson didn't catch on...maybe he was not the smartest Judge in Israel's history.
 - 2. He should have caught on that she was trying to get him killed, but he trusted in his own strength
 - 3. I believe Samson thought he could overcome whatever he faced by his own strength...
 - 4. And that was true, until God removed His protection.
- E. Judges 16:22-30
 - 1. His hair began to grow back
 - 2. His humility began to grow for the first time
 - 3. This is the first time we see Samson willingly depending on the Lord
 - 4. And then, Samson does what he was sent to do.

III. Point

- A. God's will
 - 1. God's sovereign will chose Samson
 - 2. God's will was accomplished: "begin to save Israel from Philistines"
 - 3. Samson made it extremely difficult on himself
 - 4. From Renew Your Mind: Ultimately, God used the sin of Samson to put him in a position where he could kill many of Israel's enemies the Philistines. Nevertheless, Samson's wickedness brought him much suffering. Our sin does not thwart God's

ability to work out His good plan, but it is better for us if He works out His plan through our obedience, not our misdeeds.

B. Sin's consequences

1. Samson chose a very difficult path
2. Samson continued to put himself in the wrong place, for the wrong purposes
3. After the breaking of the third vow, he then felt the full measure of sins consequences.
4. God did still use him to fulfill the purpose, but the road Samson chose was painful and full of setbacks.
5. Application:
 - a) Let us not choose sin, and make the path more difficult
 - b) Let us not choose sin, and make the testimony more challenging
 - c) God can rescue any situation, but we don't have to make it so hard on ourselves
 - d) Illustration: Nails in the Fence
 - e) Let us not choose unrighteousness, but let us also not choose self righteousness.
 - f) We often omit self righteousness from a "shipwreck" sin list...its very destructive.

C. Awakening

1. Samson's awakening came after he had lost everything.
 - a) He lost his freedom
 - b) He lost his strength
 - c) He lost his eyesight
 - d) But...he had not lost his God, though there is no record he had ever served the purposes of God.
2. God was faithful, Samson was not
3. Samson was awakened to the need of God, only because everything else had been stripped away.
4. Application:
 - a) There is not a better "feeling" that restoration
 - b) There is not a better position, that to be where God would have you to be.
 - c) There is not a better moment than to look at where you have been, and see that you were in God's will all along the way.
 - d) When you find yourself digging a hole for yourself...
 - (1) Some double down and dig faster, yet it only goes deeper.
 - (2) Some struggle to recognize the hole
 - (3) Some stop digging.
 - e) An awakening is a moment of surrender, where you stop digging and watch God intervene.

IV. Close