

Great Stories of the Bible - 03/06/22

Samson – Used in Spite of His Imperfections

TEXT- Judges 13:1-5 *And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight*

INTRO – *Israel was under the power of the Philistines for forty years.*

Judges 13:1 *And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines **forty years.***

God raised up a man to deliver Israel. God uses men not programs. Samson is mentioned in Hebrews 11 concerning his faith. He was called for a special purpose to deliver Israel. God gave him supernatural strength and ultimately, he wasted this ability. There are many lessons we can learn from his life.

I. We are called to live a holy life

- Samson was miraculously conceived after an Angel of the LORD appeared to his barren mother.
- The Messenger gave an instruction to Samson's mother about how they should raise the child.

Judges 13:4-5 *Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazirite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*

- Samson would be consecrated and become a Nazirite from birth.

It is very clear that Samson should not let a razor come upon his head, drink wine, and eat anything unclean.

The full description of the Nazirite vow is found in Numbers 6.

As Christians, we have a higher calling than the pursuit of happiness. It is the pursuit of holiness.

- Samson is made a Nazirite for his whole lifetime (Judges 13:5).

The meaning of Nazirite means “to be separated.” Like Samson, we are all called to be separated from this world's way of life.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

God expects Christians to live a **holy life**. (Romans 12:1-2).

Have you given 100% of all your being, mind, heart, and strength to God?" "What are the things that easily ensnare us and prevent us from surrendering our lives to Him?"

"What are the things that are holding us back?"

Christianity is not merely a feel-good and part-time duty. *It demands all our being.* It demands HOLINESS.

The life of a Christian is a life of overcoming.

II. God can use bad situations to fulfill His purpose

Though Samson is known to be one of the strongest men recorded in the Bible, he is not short of weaknesses.

Judges 14:1-2 *And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.*

- Samson acted carnally.
- Samson was betrayed by his wife-to-be, and this had led Samson to initially kill 30 men and then set on fire the standing grain of the Philistines.
- The Philistines sought revenge on Samson, but they failed.
- Samson killed 1,000 Philistines and delivered the Israelites from their hands.

“The Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him” multiple times (Judges 14:6, 9; 15:14). Even though Samson was going against his Nazirite vow, God is still using him to fulfill His purpose.

Judges 14:4 *But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.*

God knows the tendency of Samson, and He used this to create a situation where the Philistines can be destroyed.

Samson could have chosen a different path to take.

Every trial we face in this life is used by God to improve our character and develop the character needed to rule in His Kingdom.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.*

God's purpose for our lives is greater than our biggest mistakes.

We must not ask, “Why?” But instead, “*WHAT* – what should we learn from this trial?” God is faithful, and we can say, “*This too shall pass.*”

III. You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequence of your choice

We have the freedom to do whatever we like, whether we obey Him or not.

However, we will never be able to choose the outcome of our choices.

Though God can forgive you, the consequences of your actions will continue to haunt you.

God used the weakness of Samson to create an occasion to defeat the Philistines, but we have seen the almost tragic end of Samson.

As a Nazirite, he was forbidden to drink wine, eat unclean meat, and trim his hair. But all these, Samson violated.

Every action you make will either bring you farther from God or closer to Him.

Thankfully, Samson has seen the flaw in his character and repented of it. As part of his remorse and regret, he asked God to strengthen him once more.

God heard his request and Samson died with the Philistines **Judges 16:30**.

As merciful as He is, God wants us to learn from our mistakes.

Like a father who chastises his child, God also disciplines us through the negative consequences of our actions.

Hebrews 12:5-6 *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

The negative consequences of sin are REAL.

Remember that you have the freedom to choose, but you do not have the freedom to choose the consequences.

IV. Choose a mate within your faith

We have seen in the life of Samson the tragic consequences of his decisions.

He decided to choose a wife from the daughters of Philistines **Judges 14:2**

And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.

The marriage of Samson and the Philistine woman did not happen. Instead, Samson found himself hated by the Philistines.

After 20 years, Samson did not learn the lesson from the past and committed the same mistake. One day, Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there.

This time, Samson did not wait to get married but immediately “*went in to her*”.

Choosing a mate is so life-changing that it should not be based on your will, but God’s will.

Not satisfied with the Gazite harlot, Samson again loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek.

After constant nagging, Samson finally gave in and told her the secret of his superhuman strength. Of course, the cutting of Samson’s hair is not the real reason of his strength. His strength lies in the Lord.

We can see here that marrying a man or woman who is outside your faith, will bring so much trouble.

If Samson listened to his parents, he could have saved himself from a lot of pain and suffering.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Don’t trust your unstable emotion but rather choose to follow the will of God for you.

V. Use your abilities for God’s work

As strong as Samson was, we must remember that his strength comes from God. Without God, he is as strong as any ordinary man.

We have different strengths. It could be writing, playing the piano, singing, encouraging one another, helping in setting up the hall, or simply greeting people as they come in the church hall. Don’t underestimate the small things that you can do for other people and God.

It is our Christian duty to use our strength for the glory of God.

Therefore, offer your life and strength to God right now.

Offer it while you are still young.

There is no better way to spend the prime of your strength than to do the work of God.

CONCL – The time is now that you use your strength for the glory of God.