

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 3—NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS
JUDGES 14:5-14

Introduction

We have been looking at the life of **SAMSON** for a couple of weeks now.

We should understand that the main goal of the **SCRIPTURES** is never just to gain historical knowledge, but rather it is to gain **SPIRITUAL TRUTH!**

The **APOSTLE PAUL** explained that the things that happened in the **OLD TESTAMENT** were to be **EXAMPLES** for us. Not necessarily **EXAMPLES** to follow, but certainly **EXAMPLES** from which to **LEARN!**

Romans 15:4— “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

1 Corinthians 10:11— “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

Read: Judges 14:5-14

Oftentimes a lot of the details are omitted from the stories we read in **SCRIPTURE**. This is just the nature of **GOD’S WORD!**

GOD never intended for **SCRIPTURE** to be a moment by moment accounting of events in the lives of its characters. If it were, then our **BIBLE** would be so big none of us could carry one around.

GOD selectively chose what **HE** desired to **REVEAL** to us by the **INSPIRATION** of **HIS HOLY SPIRIT!** After all, it is **GOD’S WORD!**

There are always going to be some questions we have about certain events. In fact, we are not going to fully understand some things until we get to **HEAVEN!**

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 3—NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS
JUDGES 14:5-14

That is the case with our **TEXT**. There are some things that puzzle me about what we just read.

I wonder why **SAMSON’S** parents went down with him to **TIMNATH** when he was going to take a wife from the daughters of the **PHILISTINES**. It’s clear from *verse 3* that they were opposed to this marriage, and rightly so. But here they are in *verse 5* on their way down to this **HEATHEN** city.

Also, how did they get separated from **SAMSON** along the way? They apparently started the trip together, but when the lion came, they weren’t around. (*verse 6*)

Nevertheless, our focus should be upon what **GOD CHOSE TO REVEAL** to us than upon that which **HE DID NOT REVEAL!**

Some folks may say that they are troubled about the things they don’t understand about the **BIBLE**, however, we would do well to be troubled over the clear things that the **BIBLE REVEALS** about us!

In our time today, I want us to focus on what **GOD HAS REVEALED** to us in this passage about **SAMSON**, and let’s learn from it.

I want us to see what the results of **GOD’S BLESSINGS** in our life should be as we see **SAMSON NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS**.

- I. **BLESSINGS SHOULD BRING US CLOSER TO GOD!**
The lion that came roaring toward **SAMSON** was no accident! **GOD** had a reason for allowing that lion to be in that vineyard at that particular time.

GOD always has a reason for what **HE** allows to come our way!
Romans 8:28— “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 3–NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS
JUDGES 14:5-14

It may have been **that GOD** was trying to send **SAMSON** a wake-up call. Understand that **SAMSON** shouldn't have been in a vineyard. (*He was under a NAZARITE VOW!*)

The shock of this event should have caused **SAMSON** to stop and evaluate what he was doing and where he was going. He should have been asking what **GOD** was trying to show Him.

Shocking situations have a way of doing that, don't they? In fact, most of us could probably say that we have experienced similar situations in our lives that caused us to evaluate the seriousness of the event, and to maybe re-evaluate something in our own life.

Very often, events such as this can be and sometimes are **LIFE-CHANGING** and will draw us much closer to **GOD**.

This event along with the incredible victory **GOD** gave him over the lion should have drawn him closer to the **LORD**, don't you think? But it didn't!

Then we see in *verse 8* that **SAMSON** violated the **NAZARITE VOW** once again.

Remember when the **ANGEL** appeared to **SAMSON'S** parents? (13:5) The **ANGEL** had told them that **SAMSON** was to live an unusual kind of life. He was to be a **NAZARITE** unto **GOD**.

The word "*Nazarite*" means "*to separate, or consecrate*" So, **SAMSON** had been **CONSECRATED UNTO GOD** from even before his conception for **GOD'S SPECIAL PURPOSE!**

The book of **NUMBERS 6:2-8**, explains what that meant for the individual. *No drinking of wine...No contact with anything that is dead...No cutting of their hair*

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 3–NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS
JUDGES 14:5-14

All of these things were simply an outward manifestation of the **VOW** made unto **GOD**.

The point is this: **SAMSON** was supposed to be a **SEPARATED MAN** (i.e. **SET APART** unto **GOD** for **HIS** particular **PURPOSES**.)

But we see here that he took honey out of the **DEAD LION'S CARCASS** knowing that it was **WRONG!** Also, we see that he **HID** what he had done from his **PARENTS!**

When we try to **HIDE** or **COVER-UP** **what we are doing** or **what we have done**, the truth of the matter is, we know that **what we are doing** or **what we have done** is **WRONG!** (*verse 9*)

We also see that **SAMSON** threw a **FEAST**. The word used here literally means **TO DRINK!** (*verse 10*)

Instead of his encounter with the lion drawing him **CLOSER** to **GOD**, he was becoming less and less **HOLY!**

When **GOD BLESSES** us, it should **DRAW US CLOSER TO HIM!** It should remind us that we **BELONG TO HIM** and **OUR LIVES ARE TO BE LIVED FOR HIS GLORY**, not our own!

The closer we **WALK WITH GOD**, the less likely we are to get involved in **SIN**.

Look at 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

BLESSINGS SHOULD BRING US CLOSER TO GOD.

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 3–NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS
JUDGES 14:5-14

II. BLESSINGS SHOULD MAKE US HUMBLE!

There's no indication anywhere in this text that **SAMSON**, even for a moment, thought about the fact that it was **GOD WHO GAVE HIM THE STRENGTH** to do what he did in the first place.

There was **NO WORSHIP** on his part! There was **NO PRAISE!**
There was **NO THANKSGIVING!**

This was a tremendous opportunity for **GOD TO GET THE GLORY HE DESERVES** because **HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD** of **HEAVEN!**

That is exactly what the nation of **ISRAEL** needed to see. They needed to see someone who would stand for **GOD** and **GOD** alone. That is also what the **HEATHEN** nations around needed to see.

Unfortunately, **SAMSON’S FOCUS WASN’T ON GOD** and acknowledging **HIM**. **SAMSON** failed to see **GOD** at work, because he was full of himself. **PRIDE** is so destructive, even in the life of a **BELIEVER!** (*Proverbs 16:18*)

BLESSINGS SHOULD BRING US CLOSER TO GOD...SHOULD MAKE US HUMBLE...

III. BLESSINGS SHOULD MAKE US CAREFUL!

However, we see **SAMSON** throwing caution to the wind. He not only defiles himself, but he gets involved in gambling.

We know that later on **KING DAVID** would also learn this lesson the hard way! At a time when he should have been watchful of the attacks of the enemy, the **MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART** let his guard down and failed miserably!

There is a difference between being pessimistic and being careful and watchful for the attacks of the enemy.

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 3–NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS
JUDGES 14:5-14

SAMSON continued his downward slide in **SIN**. He got together with these 30 ungodly men for his bachelor party because that was the custom! (*Vs 10*)

Instead of being **ASHAMED** of the drunken feast he was at, and **ASHAMED** of the drunken people he was around **SAMSON** was treating them like his good friends.

Instead of being **ASHAMED** of what he had done with the lion and the honey, he made a joke out of it. He turned his sin into a riddle.

The lesson for us here is this: **We need to learn not to be so casual about SIN!**

We also need to be careful not to take **GOD’S GRACE** and **HIS GOODNESS** for granted!

Romans 6:1–“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

Certainly, **GOD** has **FORGIVEN US** our **SINS** and **DELIVERED US** from the eternal consequences of **HELL**. Nevertheless, **WE MUST NOT PRESUME UPON GOD’S GRACE** and live our lives recklessly! That is a dangerous place to find ourselves!

The **LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING** is not canceled out by **SALVATION!**

Galatians 6:7-8–“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

WILLFUL SIN against **GOD** will result in **HIS CHASTISEMENT** upon us.

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 3–NEGLECTING GOD’S BLESSINGS
JUDGES 14:5-14

Conclusion

GOD’S BLESSINGS Upon Us Should: *Bring us closer to GOD , Make us humble, Cause us to be careful!*

Maybe in light of all we’ve seen in this passage **WE** need to re-evaluate our **walk with GOD?**

GOD has been so good to us! Have **HIS BLESSINGS** upon us *brought us closer to Him...made us humble...and caused us to be careful in our walk?*

If not, then, just like **SAMPSON**, we are in dangerous territory!