

Judges: Broken Heroes/Faithful God

JUDGES 13-14

Samson: The Strong Weak Man

SAMSON WAS AN INCREDIBLY STRONG MAN WITH A DANGEROUSLY WEAK WILL

Judges 13:1-5 (NIV)

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. 3 The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son.

4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. 5 You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because *the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God* from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

Judges 13:24-25 (NIV)

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

ATTITUDES THAT MAKE THE STRONG WEAK

- **Unchecked Desire: I want it!**

One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. 2 When he returned home, he told his father and mother, "A young Philistine woman in Timnah *caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me.*"

3 His father and mother objected. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?"

But Samson told his father, "*Get her for me! She looks good to me.*" Judges 14:1-3 (NLT)

Judges 14:5-7 (NLT)

As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, a young lion suddenly attacked Samson near the vineyards of Timnah. 6 At that moment the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn't tell his father or mother about it. 7 When Samson arrived in Timnah, he talked with the woman and was very pleased with her.

Judges 14:8-9 (NLT)

8 Later, when he returned to Timnah for the wedding, *he turned off the path* to look at the carcass of the lion. And he found that a swarm of bees had made some honey in the carcass. 9 He scooped some of the honey into his hands and ate it along the way. He also gave some to his father and mother, and they ate it. But he didn't tell them he had taken the honey from the carcass of the lion.

- **Unwarranted Entitlement: I deserve it!**
- **Uninhibited Pride: I can handle it!**

Judges 14:10 (NLT)

As his father was making final arrangements for the marriage, Samson threw a party at Timnah, as was the custom for elite young men.

“party” - mishteh (mish-teh'); a feast or party; a celebration or occasion for drinking.

Judges 14:16-18 (NLT)

16 So Samson's wife came to him in tears and said, “You don't love me; you hate me! You have given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer.” “I haven't even given the answer to my father or mother,” he replied. “Why should I tell you?”

17 So she cried whenever she was with him and kept it up for the rest of the celebration. At last, on the seventh day he told her the answer because she was tormenting him with her nagging. Then she explained the riddle to the young men.

18 So before sunset of the seventh day, the men of the town came to Samson with their answer: “What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?”

Samson replied, “If you hadn't plowed with my heifer, you wouldn't have solved my riddle!”

Judges 14:19-20 (NLT)

Samson was furious about what had happened, and he went back home to live with his father and mother. So his wife was given in marriage to the man who had been Samson's best man at the wedding.

ATTITUDES THAT MAKE THE WEAK STRONG

- **Fruitful Desire: I want God and trust Him to give me what I need!**

Matthew 6:33 (CEB)

Desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- **Faithful Entitlement: I deserve death, but God has given me full life!**

John 10:10 (NCV)

A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—life in all its fullness.

- **Faith-filled Humility: I can't handle much without God, but I can do all things through Christ and His strength!**

Ephesians 6:10 (NIV)

Finally, be strong *in the Lord* and in *his* mighty power.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (MEV)

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."