

HOW TO SABOTAGE YOUR SUCCESS

Right in the Eye: Part 6

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SAMSON'S SYNOPSIS

- Catches Philistine fever.
- Plays riddle-mania.
- Runaway groom.
- Revenge of the fiery foxes.
- Jawbone jamboree.
- Red light gate fight at midnight.
- Delilah -> downfall.
- Samson's final performance brings the house down!



LIFE LESSONS FROM A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE LEADER

1. Great **STARTS** do not guarantee great success.

*"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For **he will be dedicated to God** as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to **rescue Israel** from the Philistines." (Judges 13:5, NLT)*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will **call on me** and **come and pray to me**, and I will listen to you. You will **seek me and find me** when you seek me with **all your heart**." (Jeremiah 29:11–13, NIV)*

2. You don't have to be perfect to be powerful, but you do have to be **IN PROCESS**.

*"...For your son will be dedicated to God as a **Nazirite** from the moment of his birth until the day of his death." (Judges 13:7, NLT)*

Samson's struggles

- Impulsive.
- Lustful.
- Proudful.
- Smart but not wise.
- Ill-tempered.
- Disrespectful.
- Unteachable.
- Loner.

- **SELF-CENTERED!**

*"In a large house there are dishes and bowls of all kinds: some are made of silver and gold, others of wood and clay; some are for special occasions, others for ordinary use. If anyone makes himself or herself clean from all those evil things, they will be **used for special purposes**, because they are **dedicated and useful to their Master...**" (2 Timothy 2:20–21, GNB)*

3. The only thing you have to know to be a true leader is, **IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!**

*"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 14:3, NLT)*

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to **serve others**, as **faithful stewards** of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10, NIV)*

4. You're never stronger than your greatest **WEAKNESS.**

*"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. **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." (Judges 14:8–9, NLT)*

The road to ruin:

- Move off the main path.
- Look longingly.
- Compromise conservatively.
- Justify by inclusion.
- **KEEP SECRETS.**

*"...When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But **he didn't realize the LORD had left him.**" (Judges 16:20, NLT)*

5. It's never too late to **BECOME WHO YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN.**

*"Then Samson prayed to the LORD, **Sovereign LORD**, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time..." (Judges 16:28, NLT)*

*"The LORD said: **It isn't too late.** You can still return to me with all your heart. Start crying and mourning! ...turn back to me with broken hearts. I am merciful, kind, and caring. I don't easily lose my temper, and I don't like to punish. I am the LORD your God. Perhaps I will change my mind and treat you with mercy. Then you will be blessed..." (Joel 2:12–14, CEV)*

ACTION STEPS

1st Base

DREAM Team All Access Tour