

Mission Minded

- Update on youth.
- Psalm 127:4-5- Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them."
- Children are like arrows. They must be formed, sharpened, then pulled back...and sent off.
- When we read this verse, we often think of little children, or teenagers leaving the nest. But we are children to our Heavenly Father.
- Our Heavenly Father chooses us, forms us, sharpens us and sends us off on mission. With the expectation that we'd make an impact wherever we land. Wherever your feet may go, you're on mission- sent by God to make an impact.
- Jesus displayed this perfectly. Jesus is the Son of God. And God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son...He sent Him on mission. And Jesus says, "I was sent to the lost sheep of Israel.(Matthew 15:24) I have come to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10).
- Luke 4:18- "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free..."
- Jesus was sent by the Father on mission. And to His dying breath, Jesus was focused on the mission. And at the end, He says, "It is finished." I've completed the task, I did was I was sent to do.
- But there are still lost people to be found and saved. There are still ears that need to hear the Good News, there are still people who are bound, blind and oppressed and need freedom, hope and healing. So Jesus continues to fulfill His mission but He does it now through His body.
- After His resurrection, Jesus tells His disciples, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21
- You, child of God, are like an arrow in the hand of our warrior God. And as the Father sent Jesus, so He is sending you. You have a mission and you are expected to make an impact wherever you land.
- Whether at home or work, with friends or family, or at the store with strangers. We're on mission. And that mission is tied to Jesus' mission- to seek and save the lost. To be a light in the darkness, to bring freedom and hope to the oppressed and bound.
- Every day our eyes must be open looking for the blind, lost, and broken. Like a warrior in the Kingdom of Light ready to fight the kingdom of darkness.
- And as we get older, we tend to lose momentum and passion for the mission. Far be it from us to ever lose sight of the mission. No matter how old you get or how busy you are- Be mission minded!
- Leviticus 6:13- Remember, the fire must be kept burning on the altar at all times. It must never go out."
- No matter how old we get or stressful our lives may become- may we have **undivided devotion** to the Lord and His mission.
- 1 Corinthians 7:32-35- I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. **33** But a married man is

concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— **34** and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord’s affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. **35** I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.”

- The right way to live is undivided devotion to the Lord. But many of us are married or will be married. Many have children and jobs and bills and things to do. Is it possible to be fully devoted to the Lord and His mission while having other responsibilities? Yes. It’s all about your mindset. Are you mission minded.
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31- But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short. So from now on, those with wives should not focus only on their marriage. **30** Those who weep or who rejoice or who buy things should not be absorbed by their weeping or their joy or their possessions. **31** Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away.”
- It is possible and expected that we remain mission minded no matter what other responsibilities we have.

Samson

- Judges 13:2-5- 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.”
- If you receive a visitation from an angel, you know your child will be special. Only a few children in the entire Bible have their birth prophesied. And his mission is declared before he’s even born: v.5 “He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”
- At the time, Israel is in a dark place. Tormented by the powerful and wicked Philistines. Year after year they’re bullied by the Philistines who rule over them and Israel needs someone to rescue them from their oppressor. It’s in this dark season that this prophecy comes- of a boy who will take the lead in delivering Israel from the Philistines. This is exciting and hopeful!
- Manoah and his wife give the child the name, “Samson” meaning ‘sunlight’ or ‘like the sun’ because they know he’s a special light in this time of darkness.
- Judges 13:24-25- He grew and the Lord blessed him, **25** and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him...”
- Samson has supernatural strength from God to help him defeat the enemy. The Spirit of God is moving on him. This is so promising. Samson is like an arrow in the hands of God. Sent on a mission to do a job and make an impact. BUT there’s the difference between arrows and people. Arrows are easy to control, people have free will.
- Free will allows humans to make their own choices. And choices Samson made. The very next thing we read about Samson is that he chooses to marry a Philistine woman. The very people he was sent to destroy, he’s now making a covenant with. Samson lost sight of the mission.

- Judges 14:1-3- 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.”
- Samson had his eyes on his desires and his lust and so lost sight of his mission. This sounds eerily familiar to Eve in the Garden, talking to a snake and looking at forbidden fruit.
- Genesis 3:6- When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.”
- What are you looking at? Wherever your eyes look, your heart will go, and your feet will wander.
- Psalm 101:3- I will set no worthless thing before my eyes. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.” (BSB, NIV)
- What are you watching? Where your eyes go, there go your heart and feet. The very things that God detests, many Christians are entertained by. What many Christians watch on their phones and tv are the very things that put Jesus on the cross.
- The watchlist and watch time of Christians is no different than that of the world.
- It doesn’t even need to be sinful, if it’s robbing our time and focus on being mission minded- it’s worthless.
- “America is being rocked to sleep by a lullaby of entertainment.”
- We’re numbing ourselves with entertainment and we’re forgetting that people are dying and going to hell. That we’re here on a mission.
- Samson had his eyes set on other things and lost sight of the mission.
- If you want to stay mission minded, guard your eyes from sinful things and worthless things.
- Ephesians 5:3- But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”
- Greed will make you lose sight of the mission.
- As we follow Samson’s story, we watch him go rogue. Instead of focusing on leading Israel and rallying his own men together to fight the Philistines, Samson kind of just does his own thing. He fights the Philistines...but he doesn’t do it for Israel. He does it for himself.
- He becomes such an independent operator that even the Israelites have had it with him. We read a story where 3,000 of his own people come to tie him up and hand him over to the Philistines. “Samson, you’re causing so much trouble.”
- Samson lost sight of the mission.
- Story after story, we find Samson following his own desires. He hooks up with a prostitute, chases multiple women, he loses his temper time and time again, he goes on a revenge tour for a bunch of personal disputes that he has with the Philistines. He kills a bunch of Philistines...but for the wrong reasons.
- Samson becomes self-centered. He appears to be mission minded because he’s fighting Philistines, but he’s doing it for the wrong reasons. It’s not to deliver Israel, it’s to take vengeance for personal problems.
- A lot of Christians appear to be mission-minded, but they’re self-centered. They serve God because they want God to do things for them but they do nothing for God and His Kingdom.

- Our mission cannot be self-centered. It must be centered on Christ and others.
- Samson appeared to be mission minded, but his fight against the Philistines was self-centered.

Samson and Delilah

- Delilah is enticed to seduce Samson into sharing the secret to his supernatural strength. His parents had made a commitment with God to never cut his hair. And as long as Samson honored that, God would protect and give him strength.
- Delilah tries 3 times to get the secret but Samson refuses to give in. But then...
- Judges 16:15-21- Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." **16** With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it. **17** So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."
 - **18** When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. **19** Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him.
 - **20** Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. **21** Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. (NIV/NLT)
- What a tragic story. A man sent on mission, lost sight of the mission, and the Lord left him. Samson was sent like an arrow from a Warriors bow to destroy the Philistines, but he's lulled to sleep and destroyed in the comforts of a Philistine home.
- v.19- Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap..." Samson was caught sleeping. Samson felt comfortable in a place he should have felt conviction.
- When you get comfortable around the wrong things, you're laying in the devils lap. Don't be lulled to sleep and ignore your convictions.
- Galatians 5 and 1 Corinthians 6 tell us what sin is.
- Much of what our culture celebrates are the very things God has sent us on mission to fight against.
- Don't get comfortable where you ought to be convicted. If the things that used to convict you, don't anymore...you might be falling asleep in the devil's lap.
- When we sin, the Holy Spirit convicts us of wrongdoing. That's His job.
- And every time we're given the choice to confess our sin and repent. Or get comfortable where we should be convicted.