

Judges 15

Jesus

- **Philistines Oppressing Israel 40 Years**

1. God calls Samson to **Judge/Deliverer Israel**
2. Empowered by God's Spirit...Overcome by his Flesh/Sin

Samson himself is a riddle; i.e. not only a riddle-maker ... an enigma very difficult to explain. [Spurgeon]

- **Samson weaknesses?**

1. Godlessness Rejecting God's Command
2. Self-will Rejecting Parents Advice
3. Sensuality Pursuing Bad Woman

- **Potential Realized?** Not so much...

Seeking Pleasure Samson led a Sad Empty Life

Jesus: In order to be full...we must first be emptied

Matthew 10:39 He who **finds his life will lose it**, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

- From sin to sin looking for fulfillment...

Luke 24:5 [Angels at Jesus tomb] **"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"**

- Looking for love/fulfillment in all the wrong places
 1. Wine, woman and song
 2. Sex, drugs, Rock and Roll
 3. Lust for more **like drinking salt water...**

John 10:10 The thief [world, flesh, devil] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they **may have it more abundantly.**

- **Samson pursued happiness apart from God's will...**

1. Never enjoyed the Life.
2. Never enjoyed the Lord

His life is now tangled mess affecting/infecting others...

- Crossed the line married godless woman
 1. Against advice of parents
 2. Against the will of God
 3. Contrary to all good sense
- **Bachelor Party:** Proposes riddle to enemy for a prize
- Wife badgers him for the answer to tell fellow Philistines

Samson caves...Wife betrays him...Philistines win the bet

Judges 14:18 ...And [Samson] said to them: "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have solved my riddle!" 19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and **killed thirty of their men**, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his **anger was aroused**, and he went back up to his father's house. 20 And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

▪ **Samson's Anger Aroused?**

1. What/Who is he mad at? Philistines? God?
2. Bought his own ticket...did it his way not Gods... **now he's mad?**

Why are we angry at consequences of our own poor choices?

Genesis 4:6 So the Lord said to Cain, "**Why are you angry?** And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Do we have a right to be angry after disregarding God's warning?

- **Jonah:** Runs from God after being told what to do...God sends fish to change his mind
 1. Puked onto beach Jonah reluctantly preaches to Nineveh
 2. Nineveh repents/Jonah is angry/Sits down/Sun beats upon him
 3. God prepares a plant to give Jonah shade/Jonah is happy
 4. God prepares a worm to eat the plant/Jonah is angry

Jonah 4:9 Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "**It is right for me to be angry, even to death!**"

What right to we have being angry with God After receiving the consequences of our own poor decisions?

- Samson angry because humiliated by his enemy
- Samson angry because humiliated by his wife
- Will be very angry when finds out he's been humiliated by his best man

None of this should have ever happened. God said do not marry a godless woman
...and here you are

I. Samson Defeats the Philistines

1 After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson **visited his wife with a young goat**. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into her room." But her father would not permit him to go in. 2 Her father said, "I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her **younger sister better than she?** Please, take her instead."

- Samson still desires that which caused the pain: His wife/His self-will

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to his own vomit, **So a fool repeats his folly.**

Some people have to learn the hard way...

Proverbs 19:29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers, And beatings for the backs of fools.

- Samson visits wife w/gift; OT version of roses...young goat
- **Father-in-Law:** She's with your best man... the Philistine. Take her sister instead?

3 And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines **if I harm them!**"

- That was your job as Deliverer...to harm them not befriend them/marry them
- God using Samson's sin [anger] for His own purpose...**to defeat the Philistines**

Our sin will not thwart the purposes of God...but we will pay a heavy price
God used Babylon to punish Israel but Babylon paid afterward

Jeremiah 51:20 [To Babylon sent to judge Israel] "You are My battle-ax and weapons of war: For with you I will break the nation in pieces..."And [but afterward] I will repay Babylon ... For all the evil they have done In [Israel] ... says the Lord.

- What men/devil mean for evil... **God will use for His purpose**
- God will use Samson's vengeful heart to defeat Philistines...**but he will pay**

4 Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. 5 When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.

- Caught 300 Foxes or Jackals/Tied tails of every two together w/lit torch between
- **Burns up Philistines fields/sustenance...**

6 Then the Philistines said, "**Who has done this?**" And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and **burned her and her father with fire.**

- Instead of going after Samson...they murder his wife/her father with fire

Collateral Damage of Self-Will

First...Took his Father/Mother down. Now...Wife/Father-in Law get burned

- **Our sin/disobedience affects everyone around us**

1. It's my business nobody tells me what to do/not do
2. It doesn't affect others

Every act of sin/Disobeyance has a rippling effect on those around us
Sometimes seen/Sometimes felt/Always negative/destructive

- **Q.** Who did this? **A.** Samson. **Result?** Samson did it but others get burned...

7 Samson said to them, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease." 8 So he **attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter**; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of **Etam**.

- **Revenge is Ugly...**

1. Attacked Philistines hip and thigh
2. Slaughtered w/**great slaughter** and afterward...
3. **Dwelt in Etam**: Lit. Lair of wild beasts

Why not marry a Godly woman? Live life well. Call all of Israel together/wipe out the Philistines together/Go home to your own village and have an ice tea with your family?

- **Instead:**

1. Job still gets done...now its messy
2. Samson dwelling in a lair with wild beasts
3. Living like prodigal son in pig-pen instead of Palace

Why not repent and come home?

Luke 15:20 [Prodigal son repents] "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him... 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Cry uncle...it ain't working. Come back to the Father

9 Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi. 10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So [Philistines] answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us." 11 Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the **Philistines rule over us**? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." 12 But they said to him, "We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." Then Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves." 13 So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

His own people Israel now against troublemaker Samson

We are giving you over to the enemy to keep peace

- **Jesus in the Judge:** Israel hands their deliverer over to the enemy...

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult

was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."²⁵ And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

- Jesus/Samson both unlikely deliverers handed over to the enemy

14 When [Samson] came to Lehi, the Philistines came **shouting against him**. Then the **Spirit of the Lord** came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.

- **Spirit of the Lord** came upon Samson mightily...**for Israel's sake not his**
 1. Ropes busted
 2. Bonds broken

15 [Samson] found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a **thousand men** with it. 16 Then Samson said: "With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey **I have slain a thousand men!**" 17 And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi.

With this remarkable victory, "We are conscious of what he might have done **had he been wholly yielded to that Spirit of [God]**' who came mightily upon him, instead of being so largely governed by the fires of his own passion." [Morgan]

- **1000 Philistines w/Jawbone of Donkey** [Lehi means "jaw"]
- **Jawbone:** Likened to the Gospel to defeat enemy [Anonymous]
 1. It was a novel weapon
 2. It was a most convenient weapon
 3. It was a simple weapon
 4. It was a ridiculous weapon to those who watched
 5. Yet both the Jawbone/Cross are successful weapons to accomplish purpose

1 Corinthians 1:18 ...the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- No one would think a jawbone could accomplish so great a victory
- No one would think a man dying on a cross could save us from sin...

I have slain a thousand men?

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. Ch. 16

- Threw jawbone from his hand/called the place **Ramath Lehi**; i.e. Jawbone Hill

18 Then [Samson] **became very thirsty**; so he cried out to the Lord and said, "**You have given** this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and **now shall I die** of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

- **Samson prays...** Wouldn't have known he even knew God till now
 1. Samson gives glory to the Lord? Not really.
 2. "You got me into this...You have to get me out"

- **Samson thirsts...**
 1. God exposes Samson inadequacy apart Him
 2. God **keeps Samson alive**...for the sake of His people...

- **Samson wins...** Blessed even when not right with the Lord?

Is it possible that God is not smiting you *in spite of you*?
Maybe the blessings you enjoy are for those around you?

19 So God **split the hollow** place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

- **In spite of Samson...God splits a rock and water gushes out**
 1. Samson drank
 2. Spirit/Vitality returned
 3. Called place En Hakkore...

Lit. Spring of one calling...and God showed Mercy

- **Seeing Jesus in the Judge**...not much w/regard to Samson

John 19:28 [one of seven statements from cross] ... Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "**I thirst!**"

20 And **he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.**

- **Samson:** Such Potential Wasted...
 1. Miracle child born to barren woman
 2. Prophesied before birth a Nazarite set apart to God
 3. Spirit of the Lord begins to move in his life

- **Samson's Weakness?** Women. Sex. Self-satisfaction. Self-will

Ecclesiastes 2:10 [Solomon said to his heart...] "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore **enjoy pleasure**"; but surely, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter—"Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?" 3 I searched in my heart how to **gratify my flesh** with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives...**10** Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure...**17** Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is **vanity and grasping for the wind.**

Never enjoyed the Life. Never enjoyed the Lord.

Life is now tangled mess...maybe that's you? Satisfaction/Completion only in Jesus

Matthew 10:39 He who **finds his life will lose it**...he who loses his life for [Jesus] will find it.

Luke 24:5 [Angels to those at Jesus tomb] **"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"**

John 10:10 The thief [world, flesh, devil] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they **may have it more abundantly.**