

# Masterpiece part 6– 2/13/22

Pastor Rick: Uncovering the Shadow Self

## Message Summary:

*Ephesians 2:10 NLT*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

Character is your capacity to be with God and to experience God, to know and love God. It determines your ability to relate to, to have compassion for, and to love others.

“To imitate Jesus is not a calling to have his giftedness nor his role, but rather to strive for his character.”

Strong giftedness in the absence of well-formed character will always lead to our shadow self and a shadow mission

Case Study: Samson

*Judges 13:1-5*

3 Vows:

1. Touch no dead body
2. Drink no wine
3. Don't cut hair

They are to remind him of the things he must say no to, it's about developing the inner strength to say no, in order to develop character.

*Judges 16:15*

*Judges 16:17*

*Judges 16:18-20*

In the end, Samson's character was so eroded, that he did not even sense the erosion and the absence of God from his life. That's the danger for all of us and any of us!

He did not have the character to bear his giftedness.

*Judges 16:28*

You have no choice about what your strengths and gifts you are given, but you are given a choice of the character you will build...

What character brings:

- Deeper life with God, the healing of your broken, wounded and tired heart, the satisfaction of your soul...things that giftedness could never bring.

So how do we do it? How do we get there?

The question really is who do you want to be?

## Discussion Questions:

1. Icebreaker:
2. From our last message, share how you experienced a different attitude toward your work over the past week? (See *Colossians 3:23-24* and *Mark 10:45*)
3. Read the Judges passages and share your observations.
4. What are some of your God-given strengths? How can they also be a liability or weakness to you, if taken too far?
5. Pastor Rick shared, "You have no choice about what strengths and gifts you are given, but you are given a choice of the character you will build." How does God build our character? Where are you cooperating with Him in it and where are you resisting?
6. Think of examples in Scripture when God uses circumstances and people to point out things that need to change. Share about a time when God used other people or your small group to sharpen your character.