

**Deliver Us From the Evil Within: Samson**  
**Judges 13-16**  
**Week of Nov 15**

*As you enter into prayer now, take a moment to settle your mind. Put aside your concerns and what needs to get done today, or what didn't get done today. Take a slow, deep breath. Center yourself in His Peace. He is the Alpha and Omega. The Beginning and End. You are found in Him.*

*Be Still.*

Lord, open my heart and mind to hear and understand Your Word. I invite your Spirit to speak to me as I meditate on your Word.

The story of Samson reads more like a daytime soap opera than a Biblical text. We begin with the phrase "the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord" and this time, the Israelites are delivered into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. Just like us, the Israelites have short memories and attention spans, and forget frequently what God delivers them from and where they go wrong. Again, He allows them to be ruled by an ungodly kingdom.

In the midst of this difficulty, God comes to a childless woman of the tribe of Dan and tells her she will conceive a son who will be a Nazirite, set apart by God from birth. This boy would be Samson. The Nazirites vowed to drink no wine, not cut their hair, and abstain from contact with the dead. They were to live holy lives, consecrated to God.

Despite this, the reader sees Samson break his vows during his life, as well as act independently and vengefully throughout his time as a leader. His actions have desperate consequences for him and for others. Despite this, he is used by God to free the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines.

Today we will meditate on Judges 16:28-30, Samson's request to God at the end of his life. He has been taken captive because he revealed the secret of his strength to Delilah. He had his eyes gouged out, and he is being abused by the Philistines. Used as a pack horse to grind grain, he cries out to God.

*Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."*

*Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.*

**Pause and Pray.**

Jesus, I am here because I want to experience You. As I meditate on this passage, draw to mind those things that You would have me become more aware of. Center my heart and mind on Yourself. Use your Word to draw my heart to You. Amen.

**REFLECT.**

O Sovereign God, remember me.

Samson had not been faithful in every instance. He had made mistakes. He had fallen to his own passions. Samson's actions had consequences, for himself and others. Despite this, God uses Samson.

Today Lord, I reflect on something in my life that is causing me to feel despair. Maybe I feel like You could have delivered me from this situation, and I wonder where You are. Have you forsaken me? Are you upset with me, and this is the reason these things have happened?

I lift this situation before you and I ask for Your clarity. PAUSE.

Show me if the difficulties are consequences of my lack of obedience. PAUSE.

Show me if the consequences are because of the mistakes of others that have affected me. PAUSE.

Show me if the difficulties are the result of living in a broken, sinful world. PAUSE.

**PAUSE, PRAY AND ASK.**

Lord, now I ask. I ask You to remember me in my difficulty. If my situation is in part because of my own mistakes or poor choices, I ask for your forgiveness. PAUSE.

If the difficulties I face are because of the mistakes of others, I forgive them in the name of Jesus, and ask that you would cleanse me of that unforgiveness in my heart. PAUSE.

If this challenge is because this world is broken, I pray that You would strengthen me. Encourage my heart that despite being a citizen of a fallen world, I serve a God that has overcome it. I live daily in His presence, and in His grace. Anything that befalls me here has no lasting consequence because of Jesus' victory. PAUSE.

**YIELD.**

I return now to the text:

*Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."*

*Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.*

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

Lord as I reflect on Samson's life and story, I am again reminded that despite my sinfulness and mistakes, I am never outside of the realm of your grace. Your love for me is infinite, and your forgiveness abounds. I now think of an area where I struggle to believe your forgiveness for me. I present it before you now. PAUSE.

Just as You remembered Samson, Lord, remember me. Cleanse me from this area of sin and convince my heart that I have been completely released. Empower me to live in the freedom and reality of your grace today, God. It is for freedom You have set me free. Amen.