



# WEDNESDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Samson

**Passage:** Judges 16:28-30

**Speaker:** Bro. Keith Roberts

**Introduction:** Before we dive into these final verses, it is important to pause and reflect on the story we've just walked through. Samson's life was not merely a tale of strength and failure, but a mirror of Israel's own spiritual condition—and often, of ours as well. In a time when God's people had grown complacent under oppression, the Lord did not wait for their cry; He acted in mercy, raising up a deliverer. Though Samson's path was tangled with passion, pride, and pain, God's purpose was never thwarted. In these closing moments of his life, we find two vital truths—one that serves as a guardrail to keep us from falling, and the other, a lifeline of hope for when we already have.

### I. The Cost of Compromise

#### A. Samson's Calling

Each one of us has a calling given by God—a purpose for our lives, potential that has been given, and abilities that are to be used for the LORD.

Samson was given all the potential and endless strength to be used mightily by God.

There is more attention in the Book of Judges given to Samson than to any other judge.

#### B. Samson's Compromise



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### 1. Marriage to a Philistine

Samson's heart leaned toward the forbidden.

Despite Samson's godly upbringing, he was driven by fleshly desires.

*"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son." (Deuteronomy 7:3)*

### 2. Feat of Strength – The Lion and the Riddle

On the way to arrange his marriage, Samson was attacked by a young lion.

*"And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done." (Judges 14:6)*

At the wedding feast, Samson posed the famous riddle to the Philistine groomsman:

*"...Out of the eater came forth meat, And out of the strong came forth sweetness..." (Judges 14:14)*

### 3. Foxes and Jawbone

He captured 300 foxes, tied their tails together, and put a torch in between them and set them loose into the Philistines crops.

*"...Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us?" (Judges 15:11)*

Samson also grabbed the fresh jawbone of a donkey and single-handedly killed 1,000 Philistine men.



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During this battle we see Samson finally pray, but it reveals his heart—only praying to God for a personal need.

### 4. Delilah

#### a. Samson in Gaza

We really see the continued moral decay of Samson and his reckless belief that he can do whatever he wants.

Samson sees all these enemies out to get him, but he fails to recognize who his greatest enemy is—himself.

#### b. Delilah

Finally, Samson falls in love with Delilah, a woman in the Valley of Sorek. The Philistine lords offered her an astronomical amount of money to find out Samson's weakness and tell them.

*"And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him." (Judges 16:20)*

Samson always assumed that, no matter what he did or how he acted, God's power would be there. But when it was gone, he didn't even realize the Spirit of the Lord had left him.

## II. The Grace of a Second Chance

### A. Samson's Hair Begins to Grow

Samson's hair began to grow again after it was shaven. This showed that, in his darkness, Samson was getting his heart right with God, and foreshadowing the coming grace of our amazing God.



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### **B. The Spectacle**

The Philistine leaders decide to hold a grand spectacle to celebrate Samson's capture. They assemble in their temple of their god, Dagon, for a public parade of Samson to entertain them.

### **C. The Prayer**

Blinded and weak, Samson finally acknowledges his complete dependency on God for strength. He asks to be remembered, pleading for God's covenant mercy and for strength just one more time.

### **D. The Grace of God**

He pushed with all his might, and in that moment the Spirit of the Lord returns to Samson. With supernatural force, the pillars collapse, the massive temple comes crashing down, and Samson perishes along with the lords, and all the people in it.

**Conclusion:** As we come to a close, let us not leave this story as just a memory of a strong man with a tragic end, but as a mirror to our own hearts. God has a purpose for your life—just as He did for Samson. Even in failure and compromise, God's strength was made known through a broken man willing to return to Him. You may have stumbled; you may be far from where you once were or where you know you should be, but God has not given up on you. His grace is still available. His mercy still reaches. Samson's story reminds us that failure does not have to be final. If you will turn back to God, He can still use you. He can still work through you. Don't let your story be one of wasted potential—let it be one of redemption, of a life surrendered and restored by the hand of a faithful God.

