



Sermon Title: *I Won't Go Out Like This*
-Pastor Ericka Lee (3rd Sunday in April)

Introduction: (*commit to memory*)

Hey everyone! Today, ***we're diving into the powerful and sometimes messy life of Samson.*** His story is ***a rollercoaster of strength, weakness, and ultimately redemption.*** We'll see how this man, stripped of his supernatural power due to disobedience, found a way back through God's incredible love. As we explore this, remember: God says, "We won't go out like this." If you feel trapped by bad decisions, let this message empower you to break free through the cross.

Contextualize the title (*take your time PE*)

Anchor Text:

📖 **Judges 16:25-30 (NLT)*:**

"When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, 'Our god has handed over our enemy to us! The one who killed so many of us is now in our power!' Half drunk by now, the people demanded, 'Bring out Samson so he can amuse us!' So he was brought from the prison to amuse them, and they had him stand between the pillars supporting the roof. Samson said to the boy who was leading him by the hand, 'Take me to the place where I can feel the pillars that hold up the temple.' The boy took him to the pillars on which the temple stood. Samson said, 'Let me die with the Philistines!' And he pushed with all his might against the pillars, and the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime."

📖 **Understanding Samson's Journey:**

📖 **#1 Samson's life is one of extremes.** He was blessed with extraordinary strength but also burdened by pride and poor choices.

📖 **#2 His disobedience led him to moments of blindness—both physically and spiritually.**

#3 But even in captivity, God's redemptive love was working behind the scenes. This story reminds us that if God showed mercy in the Old Testament, how much more is He ready to extend that mercy to us today?

Steps to Move from Blindness to Blessing:

1. Acknowledge Your Failures

Supporting Verse:

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

“People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.”

Acknowledging opens the door for God's grace.

Just like Samson had to face the consequences of his actions, we must recognize our failures. **Acknowledging** our mistakes is the first step to healing. It's tough, but it **opens the door for God's grace.**

2. Cry Out for Help

Supporting Verse:

Psalm 34:17 (NLT)- “The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.”

In his moment of desperation, Samson cried out to God. We can do the same! **No matter how far we've strayed, God is always there, ready to listen and respond to our cries for help.**

3. Seek Restoration with Intent

Supporting Verse:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) - “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

After recognizing our failures and seeking God's help, we must **actively pursue the restoration God offers.** This means stepping into the new life God has for us, leaving behind the old patterns that led us astray.

Three Actions Samson Took That Led to Redemption:

Samson Prayed for Strength

■ Judges 16:28 (NLT)* - “Then Samson prayed to the Lord, ‘Sovereign Lord, ***remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time.***”

In his darkest hour, Samson turned to God and prayed for strength. This act of humility allowed God to restore him. It’s a reminder that we can always reach out to God, no matter our situation.

■ 2. Samson Surrendered to God’s Will

■ Judges 16:30 (NLT)* - “Samson said, ‘**Let me die with the Philistines.**”

Samson accepted his fate and surrendered completely to God’s will. Sometimes, ■ **we need to let go of control and trust in God’s plan for our lives, even when it feels impossible.**

■ 3. Samson Finished Strong

■ Judges 16:30 (NLT)- “**He killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.**

Samson’s final act was a powerful testament to redemption. ■ **He fulfilled his purpose, showing that it’s not about how we start but how we finish. ■ Our past does not define us; our final actions can leave a lasting impact.**

Conclusion:

As we reflect on Samson’s journey, let’s remember that we’re not defined by our mistakes. God’s mercy is greater than our failures. We can break free from the cycle of poor decision-making and step into the blessings of the cross. So when life gets tough and you feel like you’re going out on a low note, declare, “I won’t go out like this!” God’s redemptive love is ready to lift you up. Amen.