

Courageous Faith: Samson

CG Equip: Courageous Faith

Speaker: Brady Lowry, Outreach Pastor

Primary Scripture: Judges 13-16, Hebrews 11:32-34

Key Takeaways

1. Calling Does Not Cancel Character

Samson was set apart as a Nazarite from birth with specific vows, but his calling didn't automatically produce godly character. God's calling on our lives requires our cooperation and obedience.

2. When Desire Becomes Direction, Disaster Follows

Samson repeatedly did "what seemed right in his own eyes" rather than following God's wisdom. His choices were driven by what "looked good" to him rather than what was good for him.

3. Compromise Doesn't Crash Out—It Creeps In

Moral failure doesn't happen overnight. Samson's downfall began with small compromises: going near the vineyards, looking at the lion's carcass, consuming the honey, revealing secrets.

4. Strength Without Surrender Creates Collateral Collapse

Samson's physical strength was extraordinary, but his lack of spiritual discipline affected everyone around him—his wife, his family, his community. Our choices never affect only us.

5. Redemption Comes When Dependence Replaces Pride

At the end, Samson prayed, "Lord, remember me." His final act wasn't about his strength but about surrendering to God. His ending was redeemed.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read Judges 13:3-5. What was significant about Samson being a Nazarite from birth? What did each part of the vow represent?
2. How does Hebrews 11:32-34 describe people of faith? Why do you think Samson made it into the "Hall of Faith" despite his failures?
3. Trace Samson's pattern of compromise from Judges 14-16. What were the small steps that led to his downfall?

Personal Reflection

4. Brady stated, "Calling alone does not determine direction." Have you ever experienced a gap between what you knew God was calling you to and the direction your life was actually going? What caused that gap?
5. Samson's compromise began with "just looking" (Judges 14:8). What areas of your life have you justified with phrases like "just once," "just a little," or "it's not a big deal"?
6. Brady mentioned three sins we all deal with: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life. Which of these do you find yourself most vulnerable to? What guardrails have you set up (or need to set up)?

Practical Application

7. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it determines the direction of your life." What practical steps can you take this week to guard your heart?
8. Brady emphasized that "morality can be tricky" and that we need God's Word as our foundation. How consistently are you reading Scripture? What obstacles keep you from being in the Word daily?
9. Samson's choices created "collateral collapse"—they affected those around him. Who in your life might be affected by your spiritual compromises? How does this reality motivate you toward obedience?

Hope and Redemption

10. Read Luke 23:42-43 (the thief on the cross) alongside Judges 16:28-30 (Samson's final prayer). What similarities do you see? What does this teach us about God's redemptive power?
11. Judges 14:4 reveals that "His father and mother didn't realize that the Lord was at work in all of this." Do you have a prodigal son, daughter, or loved one you're praying for? How does this verse encourage you?
12. Brady ended with the reminder: "If we have a pulse, we have a purpose." What is one specific way you can live out your purpose this week?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Set Guardrails

Identify one area where compromise is creeping into your life. Establish a specific guardrail this week (accountability partner, content filter, time boundary, etc.).

Option 2: Daily Dependence

Each morning this week, pray Samson's prayer: "Lord, remember me." Acknowledge your dependence on God rather than your own strength.

Option 3: Prodigal Prayer

If you have a loved one far from God, commit to praying Judges 14:4 over them daily: "Lord, help me realize that You are at work even when I can't see it."

Option 4: Character Audit

Reflect on the Nazarite vows (abstaining from wine, not cutting hair, avoiding the dead). What modern equivalent would demonstrate your set-apart commitment to God? Make one specific commitment.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

Prayer Points

- Pray for strength to resist compromise in small areas
 - Pray for prodigals in your families and community
 - Ask God to help you depend on Him rather than your own strength
 - Thank God that He redeems endings and works even when we can't see it
 - Pray for boldness to share the gospel with lost souls
-

Final Thought: Samson's story reminds us that it's never too late to surrender to God. Our endings can be redeemed when we cry out, "Lord, remember me," and depend on His strength rather than our own.