



Miracles out of Messes

Part 3

Sunday February 18, 2024

The Book of Judges 13:1-7, “And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.² There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children.³ And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.⁴ Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean,⁵ for behold,

you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”⁶ Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name,⁷ but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

Sampson was born as one of the judges of Israel, whose life and acts are recorded in Judges chapters 13 - 16. At a period when Israel was under the oppression of the Philistines, the angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah, a man of Dan, of the city of Zorah, and to his wife, who was barren, and predicted that they should have a son.

In accordance with Nazaritic requirements, she was to abstain from wine and other strong drink, and her promised child was not to have a razor used upon his head. In due time the son was born; he was reared according to the strict provisions of the Nazarite code, and in the camp of Dan the spirit of the Lord began to move him.

But like Sampson, if we do not keep ourselves in check, our unrestrained urges will stand in the way of what God is trying to do. Sampson's story provides to us a template to give us warning as much as it provides to us hope! Therefore, point #1...

1. Our walk with Christ is Hindered when We allow Unrestrained Desires to Sever the Anointing!

- a. In Judges chapter 15, it documents the story of a man, called to be a Judge, being dominated by unbridled passions and it was these uncontrolled lusts that caused the Judge to become a slave to sin. Samson finds himself in the grasp of an uninhibited appetite that drove him to commit acts that no man under a Nazarite vow should even contemplate committing.
- b. Samson, a man called of God to be a defender and judge of the nation of Israel, regrettably finds himself in the arms of multiple women throughout his life all the while having the calling of a Judge upon his life. And it was this sin that set his course for destruction.
- c. Notice how his unbridled passions quite literally ruled his life. His righteous passion against the Philistines caused the anointing to hit his life and he slaughtered them in te droves. This was a man of unmatched strength and ability with tremendous gifting.

- d. But his unrighteous passions caused him to union himself with a deceitful woman, a prostitute, and finally a woman by the name of Delilah; of which the very name Delilah literally means “Traitor”!
- e. And in Judges 16:20-21, we discover that Delilah is a traitor. Samson, due to his lustful desires of her, confesses to her what the key to his strength is and it was on that day that the traitor began to scheme about how she could cut the hair from his head.
- f. And finally, according to the text, the conspirator finds a weary Samson and presents a place that he may lay his head. A weary and tired Samson had no idea that his unrestrained appetite caused him to lay his head in the lap of a traitor that would sever the anointing from his life.
- g. And church, if we are not careful, we will fall into this same trap of the enemy! We will lay our head into the lap of sin thinking that all is well until sin literally cuts the anointing from our lives!
- h. Notice with me the text in Judges 16:20-22, ²⁰“And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him. ²¹ And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him

down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he
ground at the mill in the prison.”

- i. Church family, listen to this preacher today! Sin will take you farther than you will ever want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and charge you more than you will ever be able to pay. If you give the devil an inch, he will become a ruler!
- j. I want you to remember today that our walk with Christ will be Hindered when We allow Unrestrained Desires to Sever the Anointing from our lives! Point #2...

2. Our Walk with Christ Manifests the Miraculous when We Walk in the Anointing and Not According to the Flesh!

- a. In Judges 16:23-30, the text records the great victory that was wrought at the hands of Samson when the anointing was operating powerfully in his life! Though the text records the Death of Samson, we are able to see that Samson truly defeated the enemy when he died to himself and bridled his passions. This is the key to true and lasting victory.
- b. Notice with me the text found in Judges 16:23-30, “²³ Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, “Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand.” ²⁴ And when the people saw

him, they praised their god. For they said, “Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us.”²⁵ And when their hearts were merry, they said, “Call Samson, that he may entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars.²⁶ And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, “Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them.”²⁷ Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained.²⁸ Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.”²⁹ And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other.³⁰ And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.”

- c. Friends, for us to find victory against the darkness of this world we must be willing to let the Holy Spirit bridle our passions; we must be willing to die to ourselves and die daily unto Christ in so that the Lord of Glory may work in us a miracle!
- d. We must be willing to live a life that is more concerned with God's business than our own business. Jesus declared in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
- e. Simply put, if we make God's business our top priority then God will make our business His top priority. We must be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to bridle our fleshly desires so that we can be about the Business of Heaven!
- f. When Sampson bridled his passions, He had a greater victory in the second half of his life than he had in the entirety of his life here to fore. Sampson had a second half victory!
- g. And like Samson, we were all born with a purpose, you may have had unbridled passions that caused you to have the anointing severed from your life, you may be currently at place where the Spirit of God has bridled your passions so you can defeat the enemy of your soul and be free from sin.

h. Remember, Our Walk with Christ Manifests the Miraculous when We Walk in the Anointing and Not According to the Flesh!

i. Point #3...

3. Our Walk With Christ Become Victorious When We Repent And The Anointing Comes Back Upon Us!

- a. In closing, I want to reference the one verse I've not read in our time together today. Judges 16:22, "But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved."
- b. The ANOINTING was coming back even while Samson was in bondage to the Philistines. The ANOINTING is coming back even while you were in bondage to darkness. The Power of God is coming back! The Grace of God is coming back! The Purpose of God for your life is coming back! You might have been grinding your life away but Jesus is coming after you!
- c. As our time together this morning prepares to come to a close, some of you might find yourself saying, "Pastor, how do I find my way home? How do I get the anointing back upon my life?"
- d. I will answer your question with a story... There once was a little boy in a big city that had many friends.... If I can but find the cross, I can find my way home...