



Lesson 64

Lesson 64: What Is Faith? (Part 20) Faith of Samson

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32

A Difficult Verse! (Hebrews 11:32)

- This will be a challenging verse!
- When it comes to Gideon, Barak, and Samson we see more UNBELIEF than FAITH!!

Men of Hebrews 11:32

→ MEN of GOD

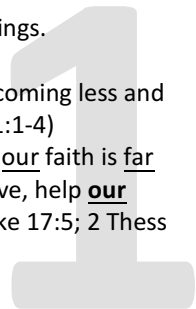
- Gideon, a farmer
- Barak, an Army General
- Samson, a religious Nazarite
- Jephthah, a Bastard
- David, a King
- Samuel, a Prophet

→ What did these men have in common?

- ① ALL ruled Israel during very dark times.
- Consider Judges 2:6-13; 21:25
- ② ALL had faith that was far from perfect. These men had faith like many of us! It was mingled with fear, soiled with unbelief and doubt, troubled by human reasoning. We are to learn to imitate their strengths – NOT their failures!
- ③ ALL were raised up by God to do extraordinary things.

→ CONSIDER . . .

- ① WE live in very dark times when Christianity is becoming less and less acceptable. (Ephesians 5:15-17; Habakkuk 1:1-4)
- ② WE only have to look at our faith and realize that our faith is far from perfect. We need to pray, “Lord, we believe, help our unbelief . . . Increase our faith.” (Mark 9:24; Luke 17:5; 2 Thess 1:3)



- ③ WE have been called upon to earnestly contend for **the** faith. (Jude 4)

A Look at Samson's Faith

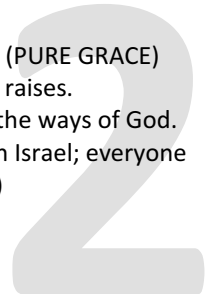
(Judges 14:1-14; Hebrews 11:32)

Samson?????

- People have the tendency to remember Samson with Delilah. The story about Samson is not about Samson – but his faith.
- Many remember Samson for his failures.
- **BUT** the New Testament remembers Samson for his faith! According to Hebrews 11, Samson:
 - Obtains a good testimony for his faith. (vv. 1-2)
 - Samson pleased God. (v. 6)
 - The world was not worthy of Samson! (v. 38)
- **ALL** those mentioned in Hebrews 11 were sinners!
- We acknowledge, and ought to learn from the Word, that Samson had his weaknesses and his weaknesses (sins) cost him his life.

The Cycle of Judges (Judges 2)

- ① (vv. 1-5) God calls His people to mission.
 - ② (vv. 7-13) God's people depart from following God.
 - The failure of the **past** generation cause the **new** generation not to know God!
 - We are commanded to teach our children about **the God of the Bible**. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25; Psalm 78:4-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:15 "child" is βρέφος brephos {bref'-os} - an unborn baby, new born, infant)
 - We are tell of the ALL POWERFUL, ALL KNOWING, SOVEREIGN GOD!
 - Even in churches today people do not know **this** God!
 - We learn from this that **our** sins have consequences on future generations!
 - ③ (vv. 14-15) God disciplined His people.
 - ④ (v. 15b; 3:9) God's people cry out for relief.
 - ⑤ (vv. 16-17) **GOD** raises up a judge to lead His people. (PURE GRACE)
 - ⑥ (v. 18) **GOD** brings deliverance through the judge He raises.
 - ⑦ (v. 19) When the judge dies the people depart from the ways of God.
- ★ Judges ends with, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25)



Samson's Life

- Four chapters are given to us about Samson - to learn and be warned by
 - Judges 13-16; Romans 15:4.
- (Judges 13:1) **Again**, the Israelites did evil in the sight of the **LORD** and the **LORD** delivered them into the hands of the Philistines.
- **HIS BIRTH:** Announced by **the** Angel of the LORD to the barren wife of Manoah. Determined by God to be a Nazarite from birth and his purpose already decided by God. (Judges 13:2-5) **Read carefully what the Angel said.**
 - Samson's mother was to discipline herself in what she ate/drank.
 - See Numbers 6:1-9 for what it meant to be a Nazarite.
 - ★ Samson's parent would have to train/teach Samson on what it meant to be a Nazarite.
 - A Nazarite was one completely separated **from** the world **unto** God.
 - Christians are to be **separate!** (See 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Psalm 1:1-3)
 - (Judges 13:12) The Angel does **not** answer Manoah's question! Samson's parents had the Law and nothing more was needed.
- **MEDITATE.**
 - (13:24-25) "the Spirit of the LORD moved upon him" – the word for "moved" is פָּעַם pa'am {paw-am'} meaning "to thrust"; "to impel"; "to push".
 - He judged for 20 years.
 - (Judges 16:24) Only a few of Samson's great feats are recorded.
 - Killing a lion with his bare hands. (Judges 14:5-6)
 - Killing thirty Philistines (Judges 14:19)
 - Catching 300 foxes and tying torches to their tails. (Judges 15:3-5)
 - Breaking strong bonds. (Judges 15:14; 16:9, 12, 14)
 - Killing 1000 men with only the jawbone of a donkey. (Judges 15:15)
 - Carrying the gates of Gaza. (Judges 16:24)
 - Destroying a Philistine building. (Judges 16:30)
- **HIS TIMES and JUDGESHIP:** (Judges 15:9-20)
 - Samson judged during the time of the Philistines - NOT Palestinians. (Judges 15:20)
 - There is no evidence that Israel cried out to God during all the 40 years that God had handed them over to the Philistines.
 - The Philistines disarmed Israel and Israel seemed to be comfortable with the arrangement. (1 Samuel 13:19-23; 15:9-13)

- Failure of the Israelites to fight against the Philistines. (Judges 15:9-13)

★ The DANGER of accepting the status quo! See Jeremiah 5:30-31. What about TODAY!?

- (vv. 14-19) “the Spirit of the LORD” strengthens Samson to kill 1000 Philistines with a donkey’s jaw bone.

- Samson never rallied troops. He always worked alone.

• **HIS MARRIAGE:** (Judges 14)

- Women was one of Samson’s great weakness. This should be a warning to all men.

- Samson saw and fell in love with a Philistine woman. He was walking by SIGHT rather than FAITH. (2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 3:11)

- **WARNING:** He was following the “lust of the flesh”. (1 John 2:15-17; Romans 13:15; Galatians 5:16-17; 6:7-8; Philippians 3:3; Romans 8:5-6)

★ **NOTE: This was “of the LORD – that HE was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines.” (Judges 14:4)**

• Samson did not honor his parents. (Judges 14:3, 7)

- Samson killed a lion with his bare hands and took honey from its mouth. (Read 14:5-14). In touching the **dead** animal he violated his Nazarite vow – showing his first weakness (sin) – **he did not take God serious; he did not fear God!**

★ “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10). Those who do not **fear** the Lord will do foolish things! Things that they will be sorry for in the future!!!!

- Samson lets his wife “nag” him for the answer to the marriage riddle. Here is Samson’s second weakness (sin) – his vulnerability to be manipulated by a woman. **He failed to live his life by principles!!**

★ Colossians 2:8 and Ephesians 4:14 warns us not to be misled, deceived, or manipulated by false teachers. (See also Acts 20:30; Romans 16:17-18; Hebrews 13:9)

- **THE POWER OF A WOMAN’S TEARS! BE WARNED!**

- **THE POWER OF A CHILD’S TEARS!**

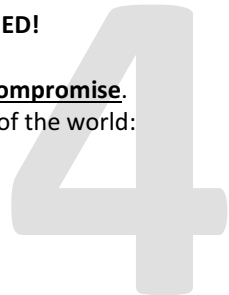
- Judges 15:1-8 tells us the consequences of his **compromise**.

★ Learning from Philistine woman and the ways of the world:

① First, the world incites us.

② Then, it controls us.

③ Then, it betrays us.



- **ANOTHER FAILURE:** (Judges 16:1-20)
 - Again, Samson violated his Nazarite vows when he laid with a harlot.
 - Again, he lets a woman (a harlot) manipulate him into compromise. (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Peter 3:17-18)
 - He toyed with his “gift” from God.
 - Samson’s strength was in his Nazarite vow (his separation unto the LORD) NOT his hair!
 - ★ One very old theologian remarks about Samson at this time, “Eyeless, in Gaza, at the mill, with slaves.”
 - Once a strong warrior, now so weak. Once a judge, now a slave.
 - ★ Meditate on Deuteronomy 28:47-48.
- **HIS COMMITMENT:** (Judges 16:21-31)
 - ★ After God **disciplines** him for his sins, Samson, once again, calls out *humbly* unto the **Sovereign** LORD.
 - ★ His faith is in GOD to perform what HE said. (Remember Numbers 23:19)
 - ★ He DENIES himself and commits himself to the work of the LORD!
- God accomplished HIS PURPOSE by using Samson! **MEDITATE.**

Lessons for Us

- God has a plan for each person. Each person fits perfectly into God’s eternal plan. God’s plan - not man’s plan - will be DONE! (**Psalm 139:16; 33:10, 11; PROVERBS 16:9; 19:21; 21:30; Isaiah 46:10-11; Jeremiah 10:23**)
 - Samson’s life was determined before he was born. (Psalm 139:16)
- We all need to pray, “Lord, I believe help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)
- We all need to pray **daily**, “Lord, lead us not into temptation.” (Matthew 6:23; 36:41)
- We all need to take our *sanctification* serious. We are to be separate - different from the rest of the world. (Jude 1; John 17:17; 1 Cor 1:2; 6:10-11)
- Judges 14:4 ought to cause us to be awed and tremble.
- God is sovereign over nations, sin, individual lives, life, and death.
- God works all things according to His will. (Ephesians 1:11)
- We must learn from Samson’s sins, God’s discipline on him, his weaknesses, and his faith.
- We must beware of the power of the flesh! (Romans 13:14; Galatians 5:16-17, 24; **1 Peter 2:11**; 1 John 2:15-17)
- We ought to learn and tremble at God’s discipline on His own! (Hebrews 12:3-14; Proverbs 3:11-12; Revelation 3:19)

Some Bottom Lines

- ① It is easy for us to see Samson's many weaknesses and sins. Were his sins more abominable than ours. (Proverbs 6:16-19; 12:22; 16:5; Luke 16:15)
- ② God had a reason for creating Samson and that purpose would be fulfilled through Samson - no matter what Samson did or did not do.
- ③ Man sees the sins of Samson but God saw his faith. (Deut 29:29)
- ④ In Samson we see Israel and the Church. As long as they remained close to God they were strong but when they looked to strangers they failed.
- ⑤ BEWARE of the world with its lips and words of Samson's Philistine wife and Delilah.