

God is the God of the Second Chance

“Lessons from the Life of Samson”

Samson was the strongest man physically who ever lived. But he was fragile spiritually and emotionally.

There are three specific things we can identify in Samson's lifestyle that we need to avoid.

1. A lack of self-control will weaken us.

It's no secret that Samson had a weakness for women - **Judges 14:1-3**

How can we learn from Samson's mistake?

Galatians 6:7-8 *Do not be misled. Remember that you cannot ignore God and get away with it. A man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows. If he sows to please his own desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death...*

The first lesson we learn from Samson's life is that **strong people discipline their desires!**

Proverbs 25:28 *A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out.*

The person who lacks control and discipline in their life is defenceless and left open for all kinds other temptations.

2. If we don't tame anger it will weaken us.

When you look at the life of Samson, we note Samson lived in a constant state of resentment and anger. He was always upset about something.

In chapter 15, we see this several times. **vs 3** *"This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines."* **vs 7** *"Since you acted like this I won't stop until I get my revenge on you."* Then he made the typical excuse of a weak person in **vs 11** *"I merely did to them what they did to me."*

Resentment and getting even is a waste of time and energy.

Resentment always hurts us more than it does the person we're angry at.

Samson was pretty creative at getting even. **Judges 15:3-5** (Note also **15:14-15**)

The second lesson we learn from Samson's life is that **strong people restrain their reactions!**

Proverbs 29:22 *A hot tempered man starts fights and gets into all kinds of trouble.*

Proverbs 29:11 *Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.*

An uncontrolled temper cause us and others trouble.

3. Carelessness will weaken us.

Samson was a careless person. His strength was a gift from God. But he continually misused it. His power came as a result of a commitment he had made as a young boy. He was a miracle baby in the first place. **Judges 13:3-5**

The strength of Samson was in his commitment to live totally for God and his hair represented that commitment.

Samson ignored his vows. He compromised. Samson's refused to take himself seriously and he refused to take God seriously.

This is seen with his relationship with Delilah. **Judges 16:4-6**

Somebody said a man is never weaker than when a woman is telling him how strong he is.

Judges 16:1 *And with such nagging, she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. So he told her everything.*

The problem in Samson's life was that he compromised once too often. But he did not know it was happening. **Judges 16:19-20** *He did not know the Lord had left him.* Nobody ever plans to be a failure. It just happens gradually.

The third lesson we learn from Samson's life is that **strong people keep their commitments.**

Look at the tragic results. Judges 16:21

The champion of Israel becomes a clown, someone to make fun of. They took his eyes out and he lost everything.

But God never gave up on Samson!

Judges 16:22 *But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.*

The good news about God is that He gives people second chances.

Judges 16:23-30 - This was the greatest victory of his life.

Samson makes it in God's hall of fame in (**Hebrews 11**) He was an absolute failure in his life until the last day. God's the God of the second chance!

You may say, "**How could God ever use me?**" If God could use Samson, He can use you. It's a commitment, a recommitment that we need to make.