



# “Open Church – Open Bible”

Min. Marossa Davis



# Sunday Church School

July 5, 2020

“Samson’s Final Victory”  
Judges 16: 21-31

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Judges 16:21-31

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v. 21 “But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

**v. 22. Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.**

v. 23. Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

**v.24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.”**

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v. 25 “And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

**v. 26 And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.”**

v. 27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

**v. 28 And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.**

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v.29 “And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

**v.30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.**

v.31 Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.”

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**Samson** had fallen in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah. Since the Philistine lords were aware of this, they approached Delilah and urged her to discover the secret of Samson’s great strength, offering her money to do so. Three times Delilah tried to worm Samson’s secret out of him, and three times he gave her false information. Finally, Delilah said to Samson, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? “Thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me where thy great strength lieth.” Judges 16:15. At this, Samson gave in and told her that because he was a Nazarite, his hair was a symbol of that vow and was the **secret** of his superhuman strength.v.17

**So, while he was asleep**, a man shaved his head, rendering him unable to ward off his Philistine attackers. His hair and his strength was gone.

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**The life of Samson** is a cautionary tale, to be sure. Although in popular culture Samson has been portrayed from time to time as a kind of superhero, like the Hebrew Hercules, Christians seeking to gain wisdom and practical application from his story in the Scriptures must take his shortcomings of character and virtue very seriously. The biblical record shows Samson to have been a man of great potential with **superior physical strength**, yet he was plagued by a weakness of the flesh that was a serious character flaw. His spiritual weakness would eventually lead to his physical weakness.

**Of course**, the only perfect person who walked the face of the earth was Jesus, so perfection is not to be expected in this world because all humans have sinned. The reader of the Bible soon discovers that Scripture does not mask or hide the weaknesses of those it describes. **Romans 15:4** tells us that “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*”

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**Our text for this week** is taken from the climax of Samson’s rule as a judge over Israel. The Philistines had taken him captive, gouged out his eyes, generally humiliated him and forced him to grind in the prison house with the women and the slaves day after day. All this happened because he took the Lord’s favor for granted. Christians today are prone to a similar misunderstanding, since our standing with the Lord is based on grace through faith, not of works. ( Ephesians 2:8-9 ) It is sometimes tempting to take **grace for granted**, but the life of Samson tells us that yielding to such temptation is met with undesirable consequences. Although Christians are safe and secure in Christ’s almighty hand, ( John 10: 28, 29 ) we are all still subject to the Lord’s fatherly chastisement as Samson’s plain example shows us. We remember though that **God’s chastisement** is only for our correction and is never meant to destroy us. It is always to bring us back into a right relationship with Him.

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We can hardly imagine the depths of Samson’s despair over his initial imprisonment. Hope must have seemed a distant and foolish idea to him then. Bitterness and regret must have overwhelmed his heart for a long time. **Nevertheless**, at some point he eventually began to dare to hope that God still had a **plan** for his life. Physical gifts, as well as spiritual are gifts from the Lord and that to retain them we are to be obedient.

If **Samson**, going through the suffering and humiliation that he endured could return to hope in the Lord, then **anyone** can. What are you personally struggling with today: a loss of a job, a relationship, a serious illness, death of a loved one, an injury, family or money problems? Whatever it is, the example of Samson encourages us to yet hope in God. He is the God that brings light into our situation (John 1:1-5) Whatever we face, in Him we can be victorious.

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#### Today’s Aim

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**Facts:** to know that giving in to temptation will always lead to bad results.

**Principles:** to reveal that a wise person will learn to rely on the Lord and turn to Him when being tempted. ( way of escape)

**Application:** to make a point to ask God to help us resist temptation every day instead of thinking we can battle it ourselves.

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In the **20 years** that Samson judged or led Israel, the Philistines remained a threat to them; but Samson also remained a threat to them. Although Samson was a man who liked to please himself, God still used him to begin to accomplish deliverance for His people Israel. Samson, as we learned last week, was born to godly parents, he was blessed by God at his birth, he prayed and God answered him, he had unusual power and performed feats that no ordinary man could perform.

**However**, he could also be called somewhat of a ‘hot head’. He was given to sudden anger and fury, his passions ruled and he would do whatever he thought was necessary to get what he wanted. When he did not get what he wanted, he would often lash out vengefully with devastating consequences for those who disappointed his expectations.

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**Regardless** of what one may think of Samson’s inability to control his weaknesses, we find his name in the **Bible’s Faith Hall of Fame**. ( Hebrews 11:32 ). The fact that he is mentioned among the great heroes of faith, tells us that he trusted the Lord and was used mightily by Him. Here are 3 lessons we, as New Testament saints, can glean from today’s passage:

**1. Going our own way leads to destruction v. 21-24** After Samson’s hair was shaved off, he did not realize the presence of the Lord had left him. The Philistines were able to capture and hold him permanently. They gouged out his eyes and then they felt confident about keeping him securely captive they no longer saw him as a threat. But it was not his eyes they should have been worried about. It was his **hair**. His hair began to grow back. Samson’s hair was a **symbol** of his consecration that God used

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to strengthen him. The **regrowth** pictures **God’s Grace** returning. Throughout Samson’s adult life, he had not fully honored his vow of consecration to God. Although he was willing to be the deliverer of Israel, He wanted to do it his way. We may not want to admit that we tend to choose our own way of doing things. God always has perfect reasons for how He chooses to accomplish everything. We are to trust Him and remember that we were created for His purposes.

**2. The enemy may think he has won.** Be not deceived. **God is not mocked.** No one gets away with making a mockery of God. The Philistines had captured him, taken away his vision- his ability to see, bound him and taken away his freedom, put this strong and mighty man into prison doing menial labor. Finally, they called on him once they were half drunk (the NLT version reads) to be their entertainment- their court jester- someone to make them laugh, to put on a show for them as a means of further humiliating him. Satan also attempts to blur our

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spiritual vision today. Whenever the enemy seems to be heading towards victory, remember...

**3. Our God will always be victorious.** Throughout the Bible there are many examples of God’s victories. Samson, called on the Lord ( Adoni, Yahweh, Elohim) and confessed that his strength came from Him. He asked for one last opportunity to be used by him. God’s purpose for Samson was to begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Samson’s deliverance successfully lasted for many years. God still delivers His people today. No matter what Satan uses against us, we can be sure that our God will always win. Because of Jesus’ victory on the Cross of Calvary over sin, hell, death and the grave; **in Him**, we now have eternal strength, a blessed assurance of salvation and a peace that passes all understanding!

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**There is no one** in the Bible quite like Samson. No one is recorded as being equipped with strength the way he was. He also displayed a certain amount of intelligence with the riddles he told. However, he often neglected to use these abilities to bless God. Samson is not someone to be imitated, but we can learn much from him. You do not have to be the strongest or most talented for God to use you. Just ask God to **glorify Himself** through you.

**This whole period** of biblical history, sets the stage for the first Monarch or King of Israel, who was also a tragic figure. As the book of Judges ends, we are reminded of one of the primary reasons this period was so tumultuous. “ In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes. ( Judges 21:25 ) Next week Pastor Bogan will teach us about **Samuel** who brought a humble spirit and godly leadership to a nation in desperately need of it.

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### Practical Points

1. There are often outward consequences to sin, even when God forgives us.
2. God shows us Grace, even though we do not deserve it.
3. The ungodly often interpret the setbacks of God’s people as proof that God does not care for His people. ( What seems to be a **set back** can really be a **‘Set Up’** for success!
4. The unrighteous believe that the Lord is powerless, not to be taken seriously.
5. Though we make mistakes, God is always ready to turn them around for His purposes.

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#### For Further Reflection

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1. What connection did Samson’s hair have with his strength?
2. When might believers be tempted to be unfaithful to the Lord and not obey His Word?
3. How can a believer receive forgiveness for disobedience and still be used by God?
4. How important is it for Churches to be hospitals for the spiritually wounded?
5. Why should believers show love and compassion to all, even unbelievers?

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