

Samson

Introduction:

- I. A Few Misconceptions:
 - a. He was (normally) *very* dedicated to God.
 - i. Not completely given to his hormones.
 1. He went to his parents when he saw a girl he wanted to marry. He asked them to come with him to talk to her and have her to be his wife.
 - b. His hair was not like a lion's mane or down like a "hippie" (Judges 16:13).
 - c. He was likely not much of a "Muscle-Man." It was God's spirit that gave him strength, after all!

Discussion:

- I. "Dedication of a Child of God"
 - a. Israel had become wicked and had been conquered by the Philistines.
 - i. Samson's parents were faithful to God, and he allowed them to have a son, provided he kept the Nazirite Vow his whole life.
 1. Numbers 6:1-8
 - a. No grape products, no haircuts, no dead bodies!
 2. How is a Nazirite Vow like Christianity?
 - a. Ephesians 5:1-7
 - b. Ephesians 5:18-19
 - c. I Corinthians 5:9-13
 3. What is the difference between this and what Paul denounces in Colossians 2:16-23?
 - ii. This family would surely have raised their son right!
- II. "Transition from Inherited Faith to Earned Faith"
 - a. This is the most troubled time in an adolescent's life (50% of faithful teenagers become unfaithful between 18 and 24 years old).
 - i. If they have not been brought up with strong spiritual guidance from their parents or another mentor, they do not know where to begin to live a faithful life.

- ii. If they have been brought up with a strong spiritual guidance, the real world hits them with a shock, and they are often unsure how to respond.
 - 1. Why do you think this is?
 - 2. How can parents help to thwart this tendency of children to turn away.
- b. We need to take action with our children.
 - i. Make their faith something they “own” from as early as possible.
 - ii. Be an open door for advice for your children
 - 1. This requires that they *want* to come to us for advice. If they are afraid or feel like you do not care or understand, they will never come to you for advice.
 - a. How can we help our chances with this?
- c. How do we prevent this struggle from ruining our faith?
 - i. I Corinthians 10:11-12 – We better be careful, especially if we think we have already overcome!
 - 1. 10:13 – Be watchful and careful (cf. I Peter 5:8).

III. “I Walk By Faith, Not By Sight.

- a. Samson was figuratively blinded by his love/lust for Delilah.
 - i. Judges 16 – **18-22** – Then he was literally blinded by the Philistines!
 - ii. Then his hair began to grow back.
 - 1. This has somewhat of a spiritual connotation for us as well.
 - a. Samson’s hair represented his dedication to God. As it grew back, he regained his strength, and likewise strengthened his resolve never to give in to his lust again.
 - b. Sometimes when we hit rock-bottom, we reach a point where we have a spiritual awakening begin to lift us to
- b. II Corinthians 5:6-10 – This outer body is wasting away (like Samson’s did when his hair was cut), but the inner body is growing. We do not see with our physical eyes. We look through the eye of faith.
 - i. Hope is the same way (Romans 5:3-5; 8:24-25).
 - 1. They took Samson’s sight, but could not take his faith and hope.
 - a. Hebrews 11:32-34