

Forgotten Things about Samson

(Judges 13-16)

In the Bible, we can read about a man who...

- Killed a lion with his bare hands and took honey from bees (Judges 14:5-6).
- He killed 30 Philistines warriors (Judges 14:19).
- He broke the ropes constraining him and killed 1,000 soldiers with the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:14-15).
- He picked up the gates of a city and carried them all the way to the top of a mountain (Judges 16:1-3).
- He put his hands between two pillars and collapsed an entire arena that housed 3,000 Philistines (Judges 16:28-31).

This man's name was Samson. Although he is one of the more well-known Bible characters, many important aspects of his story are often forgotten.

I. Forgotten things about Samson:

- A. He was born during a dark time.
 1. He was born during a time of the judges (Judges 21:25).
 2. Because of sin, God allowed His people to be oppressed by the Philistines (Judges 13:1).
- B. His birth was a gift from God.
 1. He was born to deliver Israel from their enemies.
 2. His purpose was to offer hope to Israel during a time of oppression.
- C. He was under a vow before God.
 1. It was the Nazirite vow (Numbers 6; Judges 13:2-5).
 2. His life had a very special purpose!
- D. He was NOT a super hero.
 1. He probably looked like an ordinary man.
 2. His strength came from God (Judges 13:25; 14:5-6, 19; 15:12-15)
- E. He has a weakness.
 1. It was Philistine women (Judges 14:1-4; 16:1).
 2. One in particular would lead to his downfall (Judges 16:4-17).
- F. The Lord left him.
 1. This occurred when he broke his vow (Judges 16:18-20).
 2. Because he lived a reckless life, God allowed him to be humbled.

II. Lessons from Samson:

- A. We need to avoid directing our own steps (Jeremiah 10:23; Matthew 7:24-27).
- B. We need to avoid being full of pride (Proverbs 16:18; Luke 14:11).
- C. We need to avoid caving in to our weaknesses.
- D. We need to avoid fitting in with the crowd (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Conclusion: Thankfully, Samson repented and turned back to God. Do you need to do the same tonight?