

2010 JULY 18 PROMISED LAND HEROES- AN IRRESPONSIBLE LEADER – SAMSON Judges 14:1-20

Aren't you amazed at the way human beings treat one another.

And we need someone to litigate life for us.

A few years ago Carl Truman, 19 years old, of Los Angeles sued his neighbor

For running over his hand with a Honda Accord.

What Carl failed to notice was that there was someone at the wheel of the car, whose hubcaps he was trying to steal.

The court jury awarded him \$74,000

In May 2000: Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania slipped on a soft drink and broke her shoulder in a Philadelphia restaurant.

The restaurant was ordered to pay \$113,500

Even though the beverage she slipped on was on the floor because JUST 30 second earlier

Miss Carson threw it at her boyfriend during an argument.

We see the need of court intervention even more in our marriages.

January 2009: Long Island doctor Richard Batista was slapped with divorce papers from his cheating wife. He decided he'd had enough and sued her for the return of a gift he'd give her eight years prior: a kidney. If that wasn't feasible, he said he's settle for \$1.5 million.

The period of the Judges in the Bible

Is the saddest period of human history.

It shows the wickedness of the human heart

Which lasted over 325 years

Ending with Saul being selected as King over Israel in 1050 BC.

God sent 12 judges to call the people into faithfulness and obedience.

Because the Israelites failed to obey God's three commands.

1. To conquer all the land,
2. To destroy all the former heathen inhabitants
3. To marry no pagans who were there.

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD , so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. Judges 13:1

The Book of Judges was written to show how sins consequence can be severe.

Yet God loves us so much

That he will even use sinful men and hurtful situations to bring us back to his salvation.

I. SIN'S CONSEQUENCES IN ISRAEL

Since Israel did not complete Gods task.

to drive out the inhabitants,

And intermarried with the pagan women.

And they began to sin.

A little compromise with sin in our world

And soon we are fully immersed in the sinful culture of the world.

We see this in the Philistines who were a fierce warrior

They were more formidable than the Canaanites or Midianites.
Because they had mastered the use of iron for producing weapons.

The Philistines were descended from Noah's son Ham.
But somewhere they had forsaken the God of Israel,
They adulterated their worship with foreign god's
Dagon, Ashtoreth, and Baalzebub
Temples were set up and
False worship was installed.

How can we in a generation forget God's salvation through the flood.
And yet it is still happening in our generation.
The children of today seem to see no importance in the worship of God.
Worship is now #5 in our priorities after
swimming, soccer, basketball, hunting and fishing, sleeping in ,
Racing, and bicycling.
How many generations will it take before our family is
Completely unchurched? And Ungodly?
Or our churches closed?
It happens when we lose sight of our focus.

The ancient Scottish legend **tells the story of a shepherd boy tending** sheep on the side of a mountain.

One day he saw at his feet a most beautiful flower
Bending down he scooped the flower in his hands
and held it close to his eyes, drinking in its beauty.
Suddenly he heard a noise and looked up and saw
A great mountain cave opening up.
With the flower in his hands, he walked inside and saw gold and beautiful gems all
around. Laying the flower down, he began to gather all the gold and silver and precious
gems in his arms. And when he could carry no more he began to walk out.
And a voice said to him. "Don't forget the best."

Thinking that perhaps he had overlooked some choice piece of treasure, he turned
around again and picked up additional pieces of priceless treasure. And turned to walk
back out. And again the voice said, "Don't forget the best."

But by this time his arms were filled and he walked on outside, and all of a sudden,
the precious gold and silver turned to dust.
And he looked around in time to see the great stone mountain closing its doors again.
And he heard the voice say: "You forgot the best.
For the beautiful flower is the key to the vault of the mountain."

When we forget God who is the best for us,
Life turns to dust.

II. GOD CHOSE SAMSON TO DELIVER THE PEOPLE

God was faithful and He sent a deliverer

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol. Judges 13:25-25

Judges of today settle disputes and cases in court,
But Judges of scripture were called to settle one specific injustice.
Samson was raised up for one reason,

That was to deliver Israel from the Philistines

Judges 2:16 say: Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

Sad to say, Samson would not deliver Israel from sin,
But from the plundering Philistine influence.

³ The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son...and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines." Judges 1:2-3,5

In this small way Samson affirmed that God heard the cries of his people
Even after their sinning.
That whenever we repent and seek God,
God sends a deliverer.

But the problem is that sin has long threads.
It gets entangled in our lives.
And one time repentance or confession does not get deep enough.
We get our habits in place,
Our schedules are set.
And God is only in part of them.

Too many of us are like a young couple
who had life going along just like they'd Dreamed.
They were happily married with 2 good jobs and 2 healthy little children.
Then mom had a serious car wreck.
Broke her leg and had to have it in a therapy-machine for months.
Suddenly everything changed. She lost her job, money was tight.
Her husband had to do most of the housework and take care of the kids, and
They had to rely on other people to help out when he was at work.
But they looked back on that hard time as a BLESSING. Why?
Because they WOKE UP from a kind of "auto-pilot" they'd been on.
They realized that they were headed the wrong way
Had focused too much on their careers,
Not enough on their marriage and children.
When the people in their Church helped them out,
they both realized how important their Church Family was to them.
The Pit Stop ended up sending them on down the right road,
better prepared for what might come around the next bend.

How many of you or a family member have had a cancerous lump
Only to find that the tendrils of the lump have
Already spread to others parts of the body.
The treatment is to be much more severe then first expected.

I have had people say: "Well I already confess that sin."
That fine and good but did we confess the
Entangling affects of that sin?

We can confess the selfishness of adultery or some sexual indiscretion,
But does that confession remove the hurt and betrayal of the spouse
Or the devastating affect on the children.

We must also confess our arrogance,
our pride, our neglects, and the insubordination of our heart.
Our weakness and unwillingness to love as we should.
And to be obedient to what God has called us to be.

Samson was a typical example of this.
He had a doting mother who had a child when she was older.
She pampered her child.
And allows him to sass and disobey and rebuke his mother
His spirit of rebellion and independence would be his downfall.
Oh it starts so young.
That is why God asks mom and dad to discipline their children when their little.

Do not withhold discipline from a child punish him with the rod and save his soul from death. Proverbs 23:13

I was having coffee in a restaurant the other day when
Mother and her little child walked in.
It was obvious that he was in control from the moment they got out of the car
He did whatever she said no too.
It was a battle of the wills,
Which she never won.
She wanted to go this way,
He went that way.
She wanted to order
He wanted to play.
She wanted to leave
He wanted to stay.
She even had to stand in the door and get our attention
So the little 3 years old could have us see him and wave goodbye.
We were more than happy to wave him off.
The bible says:

**A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.
Proverbs 17:21**

III. SAMSON SIN WAS HIS DEMISE

Samson's lack of discipline as a child,
Left him with lack of discipline as a teenager.
It got him involved with the immoral women of the Philistines.
Which got him involved in their immoral society.
The gambling and carousing.

Bad company ruins good morals. Proverbs.13:20

His first wife is a Philistine idol worshiper.
A blatant disobedience to God's word.
He later visits prostitutes In Judges 16:1.
His involvement with Delilah was immoral.
He never married her but lived with her,
Samson fate followed his disobedience.

Samson is a for-runner of our lust filled society.
Our live-in partners and same sex lifestyles.
He fooled away he gift God entrusted to him,

His immoral lifestyle ruined him
And didn't bring the help God's people needed.

Think about all the people we know who
Because of their sensual lusts
Have been removed from office, or work,
Shamed in life,
Broken in their relationship.

Sin has its own destructive qualities.
And Samson's lust of the flesh,
Clouds any good that comes out of Samson's judgeship.

Because of Samson's disobedience,
God's set him up for defeat
Away from his family values,
Out in secular society,
Outside the God's protective shield of blessing.
Delilah was able to squeeze Samson in giving away the secret of his strength.
Four times she pressed him.
Three times he deceived her.
Then at last she said:

How can you say "I love you" when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength. Judges 16:15

She continued to nag and prod him.

With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. Judges 16:16

Then we have the sad words.

So he told her everything. Judges 16:17

He sold out his Nazarite vow to God.

We don't know if Delilah got him drunk, or drugged him.
But it says:

Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair and so began to subdue him, and His strength left him. Judges 16:19

She cut his hair,
She cut of his nazarite vow,
She cut off his strength.
The spirit of the Lord left him.

Samson's strength was not in his physical body,
But in his Nazarite vow with the Holy Spirit.
That is what enabled him to
lift the city gates and carried them out into the field.
To kill a lion with his bare hands and
To killed 1000 philistines with a jaw bone of donkey.

I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men. Judges 15:16

That what enabled him to catch foxes and tied their tails together
And set them on fire and burned up the fields of the philistines.
The Philistines couldn't figure out where his strength came from.

But vs 14 says it was the

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. Judges 15:14

Once his hair was shaved his vow broken.

His strength was gone.

²¹ Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. Judges 16:21

Weak and blind

grinding grain for the Philistine city.

Samson was in dire need of correction.

When before God couldn't get his attention

Now Samson was ready to listen,

And in prison, He began to heal spiritually,

And to heal physically.

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

Hair grows slowly and times passed Slowly for Samson,

Enough for him to think and reflect on his life.

And to realize his regretful, wasteful live.

The Philistines could not resist the temptation to mock Samson

And his God one more time.

The rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy into our hands. Judges 16:23

So when they were in their drunken glory

thanking Dagon deliverance over their enemy.

²⁵ While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us."

So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. Judges 16:25

Samson performed in their temple in front of all

the leaders and important people of the Philistines.

More than 3000 were present.

Since Samson was blind.

He asked a lad with him to place his hands

on the pillars of the temple,

Supposedly to steady himself.

But then he spoke these words.

Then Samson prayed to the LORD , "O Sovereign LORD , remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Judges 16:28

God heard his prayer.

And he took hold of the

Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Judges 16:29

And pushed them down.

And Killed all the temple rulers and people in it.

And the bible says:

Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived. Judges 16:30

Samson's sin destroyed his life.

But God was merciful giving him time in prison to repent.

When he died, the bible says:

³¹ Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years. Judges 16:31

God has given us Samson's story,

To warn us that any one of us can fall into sin.

And that the steps to recovery may be very painful.

Captured by his enemies,

His eyes gouged out,

Put into pitiful prison.

But Samson

He returned to God.

He repented of his sin.

He received restoration.

Hebrews 11 lists him among the faithful.

So in closing ask yourself these questions?

1. Am I fulfilling my potentials?
2. Am I doing all that I can for God?
3. Am I faithfully living out a godly life?

If not ask God for his direction and correction.

There is no day off in the Christian life.

We must keep praying and evaluating.

Each day decision determines our eternal destiny.