

Judges 14

Samson Gods flawed Leader

We are fed a distilled image of the men & women God uses & put them in glass trophy cases untouchable to be admired by ordinary people. Yet when we sanitize those God uses we do God and them a disservice. God uses ordinary people to do an extraordinary work for Him in order that only He gets the glory. Samson in Hebrew 11:32 hall of faith, is not what we would expect as one designated by heaven and God Himself to be one of our hero's of the faith seeing he such a flawed individual. And so are we, it is why God uses us because we realize we could never do or be what God asks of us unless it be God and heavens calling. Samson himself is a sort of riddle, a paradox of a man who does great and extraordinary things yet he himself has weakness and flaws that we don't admire. Yet he was not intended to be a pattern for us to follow but a figure of awe for us to look at and see the power & authority of God working thru imperfect people.

1 Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 So he came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife." 3 Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me."

He goes down to place of temptation, Timnah Philistine city & attracted to daughter of Philistines.....stay away from temptations of Timnah...not how close to fire w/o getting burned. The eye w/ seeing is never satisfied.

Godly parents have wisdom especially in ways of marriage. They give good counsel... 'don't be unequally yoked to unbeliever'. Life's lessons, history teaches **Gen 26:34 And when Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; 35 and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah. 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the**

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daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?" 28:1 So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

Honor father and mother that life may be long on earth...Ex 20:12 Samson didn't and life was cut short as we will see....God's commands parents seeking to uphold... *Come out from amongst them and be separate...if you marry only marry in the Lord...do not be unequally yoked w/ unbelievers.*

Dt 7:1-4 "When the LORD your God shall bring you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and shall clear away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, 2 and when the LORD your God shall deliver them before you, and you shall defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them. 3 "Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. 4 "For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will quickly destroy you

Get her for me...fathers duty 1-torah 2-trade 3-mate—to marry off children was marriage of children but not becoming one w/ worshippers of Dagon.

Uncircumcised term of contempt, disdain--reference to idolaters those outside the covenant of God. Parents had wisdom. Started after flood ***Gen 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.***

4 However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

God uses our bad decisions for His purposes to chastise us and bring about His purposes in our life...turn us to Christ. Here to deal w/ Israel's enemy the Philistines

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Rehoboam divides the kingdom--1Kings 12:15 So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn of events from the LORD, that He might establish His word, which the LORD spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

Acts 2: and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— 23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 “And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

5 Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion came roaring toward him. 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done. 7 So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson. 8 When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion. 9 So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.

Rich w/ vines and grapes a place Samson to avoid but he flirts w/ temptation in vineyard w/ grapes not to eat 13:13. Nu 6--Not how close to the fire can we get w/o getting burned or flirt w/ temptation w/o falling—but how far can we stay away, avoid all together. Young lion – Satan like a roaring lion seeking to devour...flee youthful lusts. Lions common in the area **1Sam 17: 34But David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, 2Sam 23: 20 Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day. This fellow will be in front of a lot of Christians who won’t even come to church on a rainy day.**

It is when the Spirit came upon him that he did mighty deeds...**it’s quite amazing out of the pulpit feeling so helpless once in the pulpit w/ the word**

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and Holy Spirit a wave & sense of authority, conviction & power of Christ comes...

Vow included not to touch dead animal—if not in vineyard of temptation not have to deal w/ roaring lion & compromise his witness as Nazarite.

10 Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this. 11 And it came about when they saw him that they brought thirty companions to be with him. 12 Then Samson said to them, "Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes. 13 "But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, "Propound your riddle, that we may hear it." 14 So he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet." But they could not tell the riddle in three days.

Feast for weddings a common occurrence in those days...here it lasted seven days & would include drinking wine, forbidden in Nazarite vow, we don't know if Samson violated it but he was somewhat reckless in his behavior walking very close to the line of sin & compromise yet God used him.

Companions or attendants of the bridegroom--friends associates who made sure nothing got out of hand after all Philistines & Israel were natural enemies. Riddles a popular past time & entertainment at weddings, feasts and special occasions. Change of clothes was high ticket item-very expensive. Very much intrigue going on, It seems the way the Philistines oppressed Israel was, not by great armies, but by covert attacks by their giants & small raiding parties to plunderer & control.

God's plan using Samson to deal w/ them in the same way. Marriage to get among them rout them make sorties in different places as we see here.

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Side note: Samson will confess himself weak as any other man just before he falls when the Spirit of the Lord departs from him. Many servants of the Lord decline going into service because they know their own limitations and weakness. We like Samson need to recognize w/o God we can do nothing but in Christ we can do all things. Samson knew he could do all the Lord

15 Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, that he may tell us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?" 16 And Samson's wife wept before him and said, "You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told it to my father or mother; so should I tell you?" 17 However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted. And it came about on the seventh day that he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people.

You got us down here to rip us off—you are behind this so find out the riddle and tell us or we'll burn your house down. She uses the same tactic as Delilah 16:15 and Samson tells her.

18 So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have found out my riddle." 19 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil, and gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father's house. 20 But Samson's wife was given to his companion who had been his friend.

Plough w/ my heifer – another kind of riddle ox plow heifers don't—Samson accused them of cheating by getting answer from his . *MH Satan, in his temptations, could not do us the mischief he does if he did not plough with the heifer of our own corrupt nature.*

19 *Spirit came upon* God's purpose all along to judge Philistines. Ashkelon one of five cities of Philistines. Better be *angry* with Philistines than in love

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with them, because, when we join ourselves to them, we are much in danger of being ensnared by them.

20 Instead of his wife being sorry for the wrong she had done & begging his forgiveness him, when he was justified in leaving for a time, she immediately marries a guy she chose as one of the main guests, the friend of the bridegroom, we don't know what they had going on before hand and so willing to marry him after her husband told her the riddle.

When try to appease evil people & compromise what values you have it always turns ugly...we see next chapter.