

36 Samson, The Strong Yet Weak Judge

Chapter Judges 13–16

Today's Lesson:



1. To understand that holiness must be placed over strength in order to be used by God.
2. To understand that when we are weak, we can become strong by the power of Christ.

Open Your Heart

What if, one day,
suddenly...

I became the
strongest person in
the world?



I became the
prettiest person in
the world?



I became the richest
person in the world?



(The smartest, the most popular, the most influential...etc)

1. If suddenly one day my wish comes true, what would I want to gain?
2. With my wish obtained, what would I want to do first?



Understanding

Today's Lesson

Notes:

God saved Israel from the hand of the Gentile nations through the judges. However, seeing that the Israelites did evil again, God allowed the Israelites to be ruled under the Philistines for forty years. When the Israelites groaned while suffering, God chose Samson as the judge to save them; Samson was designated to be a Nazarite from the time he was in his mother's womb. Samson was blessed, moved by the Spirit of God, and grew having great strength. He tore a lion apart with his bare hands and killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone. He also took hold of the doors of the gates of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

As we can see, Samson saved Israel with his great strength, but he gradually became flooded with issues by being close with Philistine women. He experienced great misfortune and difficulty by marrying a Philistine woman. Even afterwards, Samson was endangered because he had gone into a harlot in Gaza.

Ultimately, Samson falls in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek named Delilah, and he tells her of the secret behind his strength. Due to this, Samson was captured in the hands of the Philistines, and Samson became a grinder in the prison, having his eyes removed and head shaven. After Samson was captured, 3000 people, including the lords of the Philistines, gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to 'Dagon' their god. The Philistines believed that Dagon delivered their enemy, Samson, into their hands. They started to mock Samson, who was now blind and weak. Samson, the judge who had now become the laughing stock of the gentiles, repented of his sin and prayed to be strengthened to take vengeance on the Philistines one last time. God heard his prayer. By pushing the two middle pillars which supported the building, the temple was brought down, ending the life of Samson and the Philistines.

Though it may seem as though he committed many sins and had failed, Samson is included in the list of men of faith (Hebrews 11:32).

Memorizing

Bible Verses



And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

(Judges 16:20)



Meditate

On These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(Numbers 6:1–8)

(Judges 16:19–21)

(2 Corinthians 12:7–10)



Changing

Directions

After reading Judges 16, answer the following questions.

1. From the time he was born, Samson was a distinguished Nazarite before God. Read Numbers 6:1–8 and summarize the commandments that the Nazarites must keep.

2. Despite the continuous wrongdoings of Samson, God helped him to demonstrate great strength (verse 3). Why do you think God did this?

3. Samson's hair began to grow again after it was shaved, but his eyes that were removed were never restored (verse 22, 28). What does this teach us about sin?

4. When Samson repented and prayed right before his death, he was able to kill more people than the number of Philistines he killed throughout his lifetime (verse 30). From this point of view, what displays more power than the strength of man?

5. In reality, where was Samson's strength?



Applying

The Word to My Life

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
(James 2:26)

1. Please write down how you will apply what you learned today throughout this week.

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praying

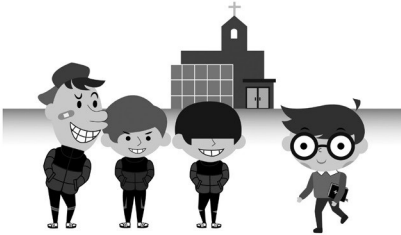
To Live According to the Word

I confess that, even if I possess great strength, if I do not separate from sin and rely on God, then it has no use. I pray that I may be able to be used by the Lord, humbly relying on Him.



Our Story

About God



A certain kid was on his way to church on Sunday when the neighborhood bullies picked a fight.



"Hey! Why go to church when there is no God? Tell me where God exists, then I'll give you a dollar."



"Then, tell me where God does not exist. I'll give you 10 dollars."

"Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:24)

Rotten Apple

One day, a father saw his son playing with rough and rude boys. That evening, the father picked six red apples from the orchard and placed them on a platter in front of his son. The son thanked his father because apples were his favorite. However, the father said to his son, "Those apples have not ripened yet, so leave them be for a few days before you eat them." He also brought a rotten apple and placed it next to the other six.

Seeing this, the son complained to his father that the rotten apple was going to make the other apples rot. However, the father kept them as so, saying, "There are more fresh apples, so would one rotten apple cause them all to rot?" After a few days, the father and son took out the apples. Sure enough, all the apples were rotten. The son complained to his father, letting him know that it happened just as he said it would. Then, the father gave him the following reply:

"Look at these apples! Has not the one rotten apple caused all the other six to rot as well? This is what will happen if you continue to hang out with bad friends..."





Wednesday

Sermon

Date. | |

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



Sunday

Sermon

Date.

|

|

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage: