

Samson
Bible Stories – Part 3 of 9
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The book of Judges is a botched exchange from one generation to the next

Judges 2:10-14 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel. ¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹² And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. ¹³ They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴ So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And He sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. ESV

The story of Samson personifies the failures of God's people to keep their covenant with Him. Both Samson and the people of God...

1. Start with great promise and gifting
(Judges 13:3-4, 24-25, Genesis 12:1-3)
2. Pursue what is right in their own eyes
(Judges 14:3,7, 17:6, 21:25, Deuteronomy 12:8)
3. Are not faithful to their Covenant with God
(Numbers 6, Psalm 78:55-59)
4. Experience Self-Induced difficulty
(Judges 15:11-13, Judges 13:1)
5. Have tragic endings (Judges 16:30, Judges 17-21)

Key Lessons to Learn from Samson's Story

1. God is nobody's "homeboy"

Judges 16:20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. ESV

Isaiah 55:8-9: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." ESV

2. Doing what is "right in your own eyes" leads to blindness

Judges 14:3b,7 But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."...Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she was right in Samson's eyes." ESV

Judges 16:21 And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes.

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ESV

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. ESV

3. Your "hair" can grow back too

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

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ESV

4. Samson's story shows God's faithfulness to us despite our faithlessness to him

Judges 16:30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life. ESV

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself. ESV

Psalms 138:8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands. ESV

My next step today is to...

- ☐ **Invest** in the next generation by _____
- ☐ **Admit:** "Lord, I have been doing what is right in my own eyes in _____. Will you forgive me and help me align with your ways?"
- ☐ **Ask** God to restore a certain area of my life that has been in shambles lately, recalling my "hair" can grow back too.