

SAMSON

A Sinner Saved by Grace

Samson: A Sinner Saved by Grace 8 weeks

"Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders." Judges 2:16

A man of incredible physical strength and debilitating moral weakness, Samson was nevertheless God's instrument to rescue Israel from the Philistines during an era of the judges. What are to make of Samson and his place in the Lord's purposes?

Most of us know what it means to be tempted. All of us struggle at times with the desire for revenge. When we see Samson struggling and falling, we have an idea of what he's going through. Samson's example is intended to incite within us a desire to lay aside our sin such that we endure faithfully in the Christian life. We are called to live by faith, not by sight, that we are called to live by promise, and that we are called to live in Christ. Ultimately, Samson's example is intended to point us to Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord and who as our Mediator set a perfect example of the faith that endures unto glory.

Oct. 9 "The Need for Judges"

The Word: Judges 13:1; 2:10-19 ; 1 John 2:15-17

Feel: Proper Bible study requires us to consider both the big picture of Scripture and the specific context of what we are studying.

Know: In the book of Judges, God is giving us a series of snapshots that show the spiritual decline of Israel. Whose eye's matter? God instituted the office of judge to help Israel in her state of decline and display's His love!

Desired Outcome: Praise God for the sovereignty He displays in His care for His people. Confess your frequent unreceptiveness to God as He speaks through His Word. Thank God for His gift of Christ, the perfect Judge to whom Israel's judges pointed.

Oct. 16 "You Will Have a Son"

The Word: Judges 13:1-8; (Galatians 5:19-23)

Feel: After Joshua's leadership and settling into promise the Israelites forget God and the standard of righteousness as revealed in His law.

Know: God's promises to His people are especially significant during periods of difficulty for it is the pattern revealed in Scripture by which God unveils His love to us. He is faithful to His promises even in our failures. All the more reasons for us to worship and obey Him.

Desired Outcome: The fundamental violation of God's covenant is idolatry. Praise God as the one living and true God. Confess any idols of the heart that prevent you from worshiping Him alone. Ask God to use you to direct others to worship Him.

Oct. 23 **“Something Better Than Rules”**

The Word: Judges 13:6-25

Feel: A great temptation for Christian parents who have a desire for their children’s success is not the desire for success itself, but rather for their children’s success both before God and before the World.

Know: We think we need rules, but we need to know God. God does not, and will not, give us a guidebook for every twist and turn, every doubt and decision in our lives. He gives us something much better—he gives us himself.

Desired Outcome: In the covenant family, our sons and daughters learn what it means to trust God, and we should seek to set a good example for them so that they will learn to serve the Lord. Let us seek to grow in our faith daily so that our children and others can see what it means to believe the Lord.

Oct. 30 **“The Selfishness of Samson”**

The Word: Judges 14:1-20; 1 Jn 2:15-16

Feel: Samson’s choice of a wife was characterized by self-indulgence. He walked by sight and not by faith, yet God still used him as a judge in Israel.

Know: Samson’s strength was meant to be a sign of the presence of God’s Spirit in his life. But he used it for violent self-indulgence. He demonstrated the qualities of someone who loves the world by following the desires of his eyes in pursuing a wife from the Philistines instead of obeying the Word of God and experiencing the fullness of the Lord.

Desired Outcome: Praise God for His omnipotent ability to bring about His will despite people’s sin. Confess any times in your life when you have lived by sight and not by faith. Thank God for the ways He has intervened in your life to keep you from sin and ask Him to continually show you by His Spirit the way out of temptation.

Nov. 6 **“God Empowers”** (Communion)

The Word: Judges 15:1-20

Feel: The passion to get even seemed to govern Samson’s life. His motto was, *“As they did unto me, so have I done unto them”* (15:11).

Know: God was beginning to move Samson away from his selfishness and began to assume a role as a leader for Israel’s benefit. Samson appealed to God’s very own reputation as the rationale for why God should answer his prayer. It is here that we begin to see Samson’s dependence on God and his understanding of the true source of his strength.

Desired Outcome: Praise God for His steadfast love and mercy as deliverer of His people. Confess anytime you have let your sin intimidate and define you. Thank God for the help He has provided even when you felt helpless and ask Him to encourage and strengthen you in your faith for His name’s sake.

Nov. 13 **“Strength and Moral Weakness”**

The Word: Judges 16:1-3

Feel: Samson reigned as a judge in Israel for twenty years, yet we are not told about the quality of his rule during this period.

Know: Samson’s foolishness is manifested in his continued relations with Philistine women, most particularly in his love for Delilah. He falls back into his foolish ways, being led by his eyes to a prostitute instead of being led by faith to God. Yet, God faithfully delivers him.

Desired Outcome: Praise God for His mercy in providing perfect righteousness in Christ. Confess your failure to use biblical wisdom in every one of your decisions. Thank God for preserving you through difficult circumstances caused by your sin. Ask God to use you as an instrument to direct others away from the blindness of sin.

Nov. 20 “The Tragedy of God’s Servant”

The Word: Judges 16:4-22

Feel: The state of our heart is one of God’s primary concerns. He calls us to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. Where is your heart focused?

Know: Samson’s relationship with Delilah was essentially a spiritual battle over Samson’s heart. His idolatrous love for Delilah resulted in the loss of God’s presence. It was not until he lost his sight that he began to see clearly and once again called upon the Lord. Samson’s hair began to grow again, there is more to the story.

Desired Outcome: Praise God for His righteousness against sin in Christ. Confess any hard-heartedness that keeps you from frequent prayer. Thank God for being gracious and answering your prayers in time of need. Ask God to soften your heart so that you will approach Him more swiftly for help.

Nov. 27 “Victory in Death”

The Word: Judges 16:23-31

Feel: Samson’s death was a victory of faith. He glorified God more in his death than in all of his life.

Know: Samson died in faith, sacrificing himself for God’s people and pointing forward to Christ and His death that brought victory and life to all God’s people. The book of Judges ends by signaling Israel’s need for a king.

Desired Outcome: The book of Judges forces us to think about the degree to which we are serving our King, Jesus Christ. It forces us to ask if we are doing what is right in our own eyes and thus creating our own version of Christianity or if we are relying on Scripture to know what is pleasing to Him.