



"Samson"

Judges 13-16

Sermon Date: March 14, 2010

Prayer:

Pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, gives you clear understanding of the text this week and a heart to apply what you learn.

Review:

Last week we saw how God showed Himself to be faithful in the story of Hannah. Hannah had a vital relationship with her Lord and God chose to answer her prayer. Hannah responded to God's faithfulness in obedience. This is a pattern that should mark our lives. Keep this in mind as you study the story of Samson who had a different response to God's provision.

Scripture:

Judges 2:8-22 -

8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years. 9 And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. 10 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. 15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress. 16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. 18 Whenever the Lord raised up judges

for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. 19 But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. 20 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people has transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, 22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their fathers did, or not."

Hermeneutics: *(the art and science of studying the Bible)*

1. This section of Judges gives vital background information for the story of Samson the judge. According to this passage, what is the main theme of the book of Judges?

2. Read chapters 13 through 16 of Judges. Write down the key words or phrases and the main point of each chapter.

Chapter 13 –

Key words or phrases –

Main point –

Chapter 14 –

Key words or phrases –

Main point –

Chapter 15 –

Key words or phrases –

Main point –

Chapter 16 –

Key words or phrases –

Main point –

3. Who are the main players in this drama and what are their roles?

4. Write a summary of the story of Samson in 15 words or less.

Handling the Word:

1. Samson's story started out so promisingly. In chapter 14, though, Samson seems to go right off the rails. What weaknesses of Samson's are highlighted in this story?

2. The Holy Spirit is mentioned several times in chapters 13-16 of Judges. Write down those verses and read the following passages that speak of the work of the Holy Spirit. According to these passages, what is the role and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers?

Mathew 3:11-12 –

John 16:5-15 –

1 Thessalonians 5:19 –

3. Judges 21:25 is in many ways the key verse of Judges. Read that verse and then write down how it relates to the story of Samson.

4. Note the ways in which Jesus Christ is foreshadowed or symbolized in this story.

Application:

1. One of the saddest verses in the Bible is found in Judges 16:20b, "But he did not know that the Lord had left him." This is when Samson lost his strength as a result of his disobedience and was captured by the Philistines. Samson's heart was hard and spiritually insensitive. Take a few minutes to assess your heart's condition (ask God for help in this). Is your heart hard and leathery toward the things of God? If so, what is the path back to a soft and tender heart? (Remember what God did in the life of Samson and also read James 4:7-10)

2. Samson's eyes continually got him into trouble. Do your eyes continually get you into trouble? What are some ways we can gain self control over our eyes? Jesus talks about this in Mathew 18:7-9. Do you think Jesus may have had Samson in mind when he said this?

3. When life spins out of control as a result of our failures, we are tempted to forget God and rely on our own strength. Has your life ever seemed to be spinning out of control? If so, how did you handle it? Did you forget God and rely on yourself? Read Isaiah 40:6-26 and write down the truths found there that we can turn to and gain a proper perspective when our lives seem out of control.