

## SAMSON: SINNER OR SAINT?

--JUDGES 16:1-31--

### INTRODUCTION:

Samson has clearly been portrayed for us as a sinner, but what about calling him a saint. There are a number of things that we should remember before we dismiss Samson's sainthood as unthinkable. First, we must remember how he was presented in chapter 13, he was presented as a savior for Israel. Second, he is listed as a hero of faith in Hebrews 11:32-33. Third, he was designated as a "Nazirite to God" before he was conceived. Because of these reasons we must revise our thinking to see Samson as a sinner and a saint and we will see where this takes us as we finish his history this morning. We may find that the inner struggle taking place in Samson's heart may expose our own inner struggles as fallible, sinful human beings caught up in God's purpose.

### I. SAMSON'S SNARE (Judges 16:1-4)

- a. Verse four of this chapter says something very significant, the author writes, "After this it came about that he [Samson] \_\_\_\_\_ a woman..." (Judges 16:4a, NASB95)
- b. The first \_\_\_\_\_ was the girl in chapter 14.
- c. The second woman we just read about; she was a \_\_\_\_\_ in Gaza.
- d. As we come to this third woman it is different. For the first time the word "\_\_\_\_\_" is used and for the first time we are given the woman's \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Delilah lives in the \_\_\_\_\_ river valley, where we are not told, but this is closer to home, Zorah, Eshtaol, and Timnah were also in the Sorek river valley.
- f. What about \_\_\_\_\_? Does she \_\_\_\_\_ Samson the way he loves her?

### II. SAMSON'S SECRET (Judges 16:5-17)

- a. The lords of the Philistines have told her the same thing the Philistines had told the woman of Timnah, "\_\_\_\_\_ him, use your feminine ways to get the information that we want."

- b. Look at this from Samson's point of view, when Delilah asks, "Please tell me where your great \_\_\_\_\_ is and how you may be bound to afflict you." (Judges 16:6b, NASB95)
- c. Finally, she pressed and pressed him and said that he did not truly \_\_\_\_\_ her if he could share everything with her.
- d. Why did Samson tell her his \_\_\_\_\_?
- e. Remember that this was told to his mother before he was even conceived, he would be a \_\_\_\_\_ to God from the womb and would begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.
- f. Samson was a Nazirite, but with a \_\_\_\_\_.
- g. Samson never really \_\_\_\_\_ what God wanted for him.

### III. SAMSON'S SHAME (Judges 16:18-22)

- a. What happens to Samson when he finally shares all his heart with Delilah? He gets his \_\_\_\_\_ and the exact opposite.
- b. The history of this \_\_\_\_\_ is not yet finished. Verse 22 is the key to the rest of Samson's life.

### IV. SAMSON'S SALVATION (Judges 16:23-31)

- a. For the Philistines, the \_\_\_\_\_ and humiliation of Samson called for a celebration.
- b. For the second time Samson \_\_\_\_\_ to the LORD and God grants him his pray by empowering him one last time as he completes the mission that God had prepared him to do.

### CONCLUSION:

As we come to the close of the history of the judge Samson, we see that his history is the history of Israel. Just as Samson was to be set apart to God so was Israel. Like Samson who went after foreign women and fraternized with the enemy, so Israel went after foreign gods and tried to become like the nations around them. We too can end up having a history like Samson's if we resist God's call on our life as he did. Will we take what God has called us do and run with it and find our whole joy and reason for living in being all that God has called us to be, or will we be reluctant saints like Samson.