

Honey From Unexpected Places

4.28.19

Judges 14:1-14 NIV Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. ²When he returned, he said to his father and mother, “I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.” ³His father and mother replied, “Isn’t there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me. She’s the right one for me.” ⁴(His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.) ⁵Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. ⁶The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. ⁷Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her. ⁸Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion’s carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. ⁹He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion’s carcass. ¹⁰Now his father went down to see the woman. And there Samson held a feast, as was customary for young men. ¹¹When the people saw him, they chose thirty men to be his companions. ¹²“Let me tell you a riddle,” Samson said to them. “If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. ¹³If you can’t tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes.” “Tell us your riddle,” they said. “Let’s hear it.” ¹⁴He replied, “Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet.”

Central Truth: God has the amazing ability to redeem all the adversity of our lives into something precious and life-giving for us and those we love.

I. When lions try to kill you

II. Mean people, a dirty devil, and a really big compost bin

A. Joseph’s brothers

B. **Romans 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

C. A vision of the bin (1994)

III. Understanding the God Who flourishes in adversity

A. **2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 NIV** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

B. Who He is

1. The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
2. The Father of compassion
3. The God of all comfort

C. What He does

1. He comforts us in all our troubles.

D. Why He does it

1. So we are able to comfort others.

IV. Christian Life Lessons

A. Learn how to respond to trouble.

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 NASB** Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit; ²⁰ do not despise prophetic utterances. ²¹ But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.
2. In a prayer mindset, realize and remember God is in control.
3. Cooperate with The Holy Spirit.
4. Seek to understand what God is doing. Value the input of others.

5. Keep your life clean.

B. Learn how to pray about trouble.

1. We may pray to escape suffering.

a. **Matthew 26:39 NASB** And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

b. **2 Corinthians 12:8 NASB** Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

2. We may pray to endure suffering.

a. **James 1:2-4 NASB** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

b. **James 1:12 NASB** Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

3. We may pray to embrace suffering.

a. **2 Corinthians 12:9 NASB** And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.