

## **2013.10.13 The Best That Never Was**

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### **Fallen Giants: Lessons From Failure The Best That Never Was**

(Judges 16:19-21)

After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!"

He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

(Judges 16:28-30)

Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

(Hebrews 11:32-34)

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

What is something that stood out to me in the message today?

What is one question I have as a result of this message?

What is one commitment I need to make after hearing this message today?

Notes:

## **Connect Group Questions**

### **Fallen Giants: The Best That Never Was**

Judges 16:19-21, 28-30; Hebrews 11:32-34

1. Samson's story is found in Judges 13-16. What went wrong in Samson's life? Why do you think he disobeyed God so often?
2. If God commands to do something or to not do something, is it ever ok to disobey Him? Why?
3. Compare Samson to one of Israel's other judges, Gideon (Judges 6-7). What are some reasons Gideon was successful in spite of his limitations? Who do you more closely identify with Samson or Gideon?
4. Read Judges 14:1-4, do you think God can still get glory from our mistakes and failures? Explain
5. Are God's ways usually harder to accomplish than our own ways? Can you think of a time you may have questioned whether His way