

BROKEN SAVIORS

THE BOOK OF JUDGES



SAMSON: PERSONAL DESIRE.

Samson is the Hercules of the Bible. He's the muscle man who conquers all his enemies in battles repeatedly. Unfortunately, he rarely did this intentionally, with a true desire to win battles for the Lord. Instead, he did this in pursuit of his own desires - but God used him in his foolishness anyway.

His greatest weakness was with the ladies. Samson repeatedly stayed with women he had no business being with, even staying with a prostitute who tried to trick him numerous times. In the end, he realized that he had made mistakes, but it was too late to save him - his greatest victory came at the price of his own life.

IN THE BIBLE.

Judges 13:2-6

2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. 3 The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. 4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. 5 You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

Judges 16:15-22

15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” 16 With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

17 So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. 19 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.

20 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.

21 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. 22 But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) Does it seem like sometimes the wrong people get all the great gifts?
- 2.) When was a time you were led astray by your desires?
- 3.) What could Samson's story have looked like if he had pursued God faithfully?
- 4.) Can God redeem even someone like Samson?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?