

SAMSON

A Wasted Life

Sunday, August 12, 2018 Pastor Ray Cummings

Part 1 – A Memorial to Meaningless

Judges 2:10 (ESV)

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.

Judges 3:9-11 (ESV)

9 But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

10 The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. 11 So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

Judges 13:1-5 (ESV)

1 And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. 2 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

3 Vows of a Nazirite

- Never eat or drink anything from a vineyard.
- Never touch anything that is dead.
- Never cut your hair.

Judges 13:24-25 (ESV)

24 And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

- **Read Judges 14:1 and 19-20 (ESV)**

Judges 15:8 (ESV)

8 And he struck them hip and thigh with a great blow, and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

- **Read Judges 15:14-16 (ESV)**

Judges 15:20 (ESV)

20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

Judges 16:1 (ESV)

¹ Samson went to Gaza, and there he saw a prostitute, and he went in to her.

Judges 16:6 (ESV)

6 So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you.”

Judges 16:6 (NKJV)

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you."

Judges 16:10 (ESV)

10 Then Delilah said to Samson, “Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be bound.”

Judges 16:13 (ESV)

13 Then Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound.” And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

Judges 16:15-17 (ESV)

15 And she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies.”

16 And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. 17 And he told her all his heart, and said to her, “A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

Judges 16:20 (ESV)

20 And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

Judges 16:23 (ESV)

23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, “Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand.”

1. Foolish choices carry consequences!

2. How you finish is more important than how you start!

Philippians 3:12-14 (ESV)

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.