

# SAMSON

## A Wasted Life

Sunday, September 16, 2018 Pastor Ray Cummings

## Part 6 – Made Strong out of Weakness!

### Judges 16:23-31 (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.” 24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, “Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us.” 25 And when their hearts were merry, they said, “Call Samson, that he may entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars. 26 And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, “Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them.” 27 Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained. 28 Then Samson called to the LORD and said, “O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.” 29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. 30 And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life. 31 Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.

### Hebrews 11:32-34 (ESV) [Emphasis Added]

32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, **Samson**, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **were made strong out of weakness**, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

## **1. Forgiveness is Immediate!**

### 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **2. Restoration is Gradual!**

### **3. Some Consequences are Permanent!**

### **4. God is Faithful!**

#### **Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)**

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;  
23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

#### **James 4:6 and 10 (ESV)**

6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” . . . 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

#### **John 12:24 -25 (ESV)**

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

### **5. You are never beyond Hope!**

#### **Jeremiah 29:10 -14 (ESV)**

10 “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

#### **1 John 4:18 (ESV)**

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

#### **Romans 5:8 (ESV)**

8 but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.