

I Need a Hero (6)
Old Testament Characters
That Teach Us New Testament Truths
Samson, a man who stood up to fall
(Judges 16:30)

“...Thus he killed more when he died than while he lived”

Introduction: We come today to one of the most famous stories in the Bible, the story of Samson, a man of incredible strength. Samson would become famous! But unfortunately, he would become famous for: Being bold before men, but weak before woman. Being empowered by the Spirit of God, but yielding to the appetites of the flesh, for fighting the Lord’s battles by day, and disobeying His commandments by night. And for having a name that means “sunny” but ending up in the darkness, blinded by the very enemy he was sent to conquer. *Samson became famous for serving as the ultimate example of the tragedy that comes to people of faith who choose to continue to feed the desires of the flesh.*

I. Samson was a man of faith: (13:1-5)

Samson had a unique beginning as his birth and manner of life were divinely foretold to his parents.

A. His parents’ faith – There is every indication Samson’s parents raised Samson in a spiritual and godly home. And we see the effects of this.

B. His personal faith – (13:24b) tells us, “...*He (Samson) grew, and the LORD blessed him*”

Spiritual parents raising children in godly biblical homes can still have way-ward children. (Parents we must be the best spiritual examples we can be, the most consistent witnesses our children ever see – but ultimately our children must choose for themselves to receive and trust Christ and then to follow the Lord with their lives!)

II. Samson was a man of the flesh : (Ch. 14,15)

Years have passed and Samson has been away from his parents and on his own. – He’s been spending time in the enemy’s environment, and he has seen something attractive there. (Gal. 5:16-25; 1 Jn. 2:15; Eph.2:2; Col. 3:1-2; Jn.15:19; Rom.12:1,2)

If we think because we are people of faith, we can’t be drawn in by our flesh, all we have to do is look at Samson’s example.

Even though he was a man of faith, he was being controlled by his flesh:

A. His appetite showed he was a man of the flesh –

B. His anger showed he was a man of the flesh –
Prov. 13:15 says, “*The way of the treacherous is indeed hard.*”

C. His attitude showed he was a man of the flesh –

Samson had apparently forgotten his need for the Lord – for on Delilah’s fourth try, he said – “*I will go out as before and shake myself free, but He did not know that the Lord had left Him.*” (16:20b)

People of faith who choose to walk by the flesh boldly or callously, forget they have need of the Father’s protection and provisions. They become arrogant, full of pride, stop praying, spending time in God’s word – because they think they are doing it on their own!

III. Samson was a man fallen: (16:4-22) What the Philistine’s did to Samson is what mingling with the ways of the world will do to us.

A. He was beaten –

B. He was blinded –

C. He was brought down –

D. He was bound – (*Jn.8:34*)

I have heard many Christians say – that Samson sure was dumb! I agree whole heartedly. But what does that make us when we see Samson’s mistakes and we are doing the same thing?

IV. Samson was a man of fame: (16:30)

A. He was famous for his faults –

B. He was famous for his failure – (16:31b).

C. He was famous for his fall – (16:30) Heb. (11:32).

Samson was a man who stood up to fall – what will they say about you?

Conclusion: *My prayer for us today is that we will learn from our hero Samson’s mistakes and not repeat them.*

Because a life lived in the flesh is no life at all for people of faith!