

Joseph Carty / General

Great Stories of the Bible / Lust; Revenge; Anger; Calling / Judges 16:15

One of the most gifted heroes throws his life away on bad relationships. Sampson is the hero that you hope your children never imitate. What can we learn from his leadership?

The Calling

[Judges 13:2-5](#) (ESV)

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.

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.

Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 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.”

- Nazirite Vow

- Calling

“He shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”

Pregnancy Cravings

- Have Anything!

Patriarchs and Prophets Chapter 54—Samson

God had an important work for the promised child of Manoah to do, and it was to secure for him the qualifications necessary for this work that the habits of both the mother and the child were to be carefully regulated. “Neither let her drink wine or strong drink,” was the Angel’s instruction for the wife of Manoah, “nor eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.” The child will be affected for good or for evil by the habits of the mother. She must herself be controlled by principle and must practice temperance and self-denial, if she would seek the welfare of her child. Unwise advisers will urge upon the mother the necessity of gratifying every wish and impulse, but such teaching is false and mischievous. The mother is by the command of God Himself placed under the most solemn obligation to exercise self-control.

- Not True
- Fathers Too
- **Diet**

- Modeling

Education (The Underteacher)

Upon fathers as well as mothers rests a responsibility for the child's earlier as well as its later training, and for both parents the demand for careful and thorough preparation is most urgent.

Before taking upon themselves the possibilities of fatherhood and motherhood, men and women should become acquainted with the laws of physical development—with physiology and hygiene, with

the bearing of prenatal influences, with the laws of heredity, sanitation, dress, exercise, and the treatment of disease; they should also understand the laws of mental development and moral training.

— Education Page 276

- We need to
 - Raise our own children
 - Raise them thoughtfully

The Talk

- told husband
- angel promise

- Manoah desires confirmation.

- asks for confirmation
- angel appears again.

- Again to woman

- Gets Manoah
- says same thing
 - repeats vow
 - repeats diet
 - Why?

Patriarchs and Prophets Chapter 54—Samson

The principles of temperance must be carried further than the mere use of spirituous liquors. The use of stimulating and indigestible food is often equally injurious to health, and in many cases sows the seeds of drunkenness. True temperance teaches us to dispense entirely with everything hurtful and to use judiciously that which is healthful. There are few who realize as they should how much their habits of diet have to do with their health, their character, their usefulness in this world, and their eternal destiny. The appetite should ever be in subjection to the moral and intellectual powers. The body should be servant to the mind, and not the mind to the body.

- Manoah asks...
 - questions.

What is His Mission?

Judges 13:12 ESV

And Manoah said, “Now when your words come true, what is to be the child’s manner of life, and what is his mission?”

- What is His Mission?
- No answer
 - Nazirite vow...
- Offers food,
 - do sacrifice
- Didn’t know
 - “Angel of Lord.”

What is Your Name?

Judges 13:17 ESV

And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?”

- What is your Name?

Judges 13:18 ESV

And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?”

- Who?
 - Jesus
- No sacrifices for angels.

Judges 13:20–21 ESV

And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground.

The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then

Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD.

- Disappeared in smoke
 - miracles for them
 - give confidence
 - in prophecy.

Spirit Stirring

Judges 13:24-25 ESV

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

- Spirit of the Lord
 - “began to stir him”
- Move
 - disturb
 - disquiet

- agitate
- Impressing
 - take action
 -

- Satan also stirring...

Judges 14:1 ESV

Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines.

- First Mistake:
 - Associates.

You are Who You Meet

- Became like
 - His Friends.

- I like her...
 - “get her for me”
 - “as a wife”
- Parents try to
 - speak truth

Judges 14:3 ESV

But his father and mother said to him, “Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes.”

- Sampson won’t listen
 - “right in my eyes
 - “pleases me well”
 - “because I want her”

The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 2 A Woman

Many of the incidents in the life of Samson centered about his relations with women. Though strong physically, he was weak in moral power and self-control. Early contact with idolaters had broken down the citadel of his soul.

Love or Lust?

- Young People

- God created
 - feelings
 - emotions
 - hormones
 - attractions

- Baser Passion
 - Subject to Higher
 - reasoning.

Patriarchs and Prophets Chapter 54—Samson

Christianity ought to have a controlling influence upon the marriage relation, but it is too often the case that the motives which lead to this union are not in keeping with Christian principles. Satan is constantly seeking to strengthen his power over the people of God by inducing them to enter into alliance with his subjects; and in order to accomplish this he endeavors to arouse unsanctified passions in the heart. But the Lord has in His word plainly instructed His people not to unite themselves with those who have not His love abiding in them.

“What concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?” 2 Corinthians 6:15, 16.

- Satan’s greatest weapon
 - David
 - Solomon
 - Sampson
 - Baal Peor

Blessing or Curse

- Marriage designed
 - greatest blessing
- Entered wrong
 - worst curse

Pride Goes Before Destruction

- Sampson’s

- Second Error

- Wedding riddle

Judges 14:14 ESV

And he said to them,

“Out of the eater came something to eat.

Out of the strong came something sweet.”

And in three days they could not solve the riddle.

- What was intention?
 - make them
 - feel very dumb
 - embarrass them

- Couldn't handle
 - embarrassment
 - threats.

Judges 14:15 ESV

On the fourth day they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband to tell us what the riddle is, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us here to impoverish us?"

- Not fun games anymore...
- Bride says...
 - famous line...

Judges 14:16 ESV

And Samson's wife wept over him and said, "You only hate me; you do not love me. You have put a riddle to my people, and you have not told me what it is." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told my father nor my mother, and shall I tell you?"

- "You don't love me because..."
- "If you really loved me you would..."
- She is right.
 - He doesn't love you.

- He is not in love
- He is in lust...
- So are you...

Rest of Story

Anger and Revenge

Judges 14:19 ESV

And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house.

- hot anger
 - no honeymoon.

Judges 14:20 ESV

And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

- Anger subsides...

[Judges 15:1-2](#) (ESV)

After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat. And he said, “I will go in to my wife in the chamber.”

But her father would not allow him to go in. And her father said, “I really thought that you utterly hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please take her instead.”

- Anger!
- Revenge!

Judges 15:3 ESV

And Samson said to them, “This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm.”

- Was this God’s plan?
 - Was this the mission?
 -

[Judges 15:4-5](#) (ESV)

So Samson went and caught 300 foxes and took torches. And he turned them tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails.

And when he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing

grain of the Philistines and set fire to the stacked grain and the standing grain, as well as the olive orchards.

- They get revenge
 - Burned bride and family
- What next?

Judges 15:7 ESV

And Samson said to them, “If this is what you do, I swear I will be avenged on you, and after that I will quit.”

- I’ll get you back double!
- This God’s way?

Romans 12:19 ESV

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

- Philistines attack city
 - What do you want

- Sampson
- God to cave
- arrest him
- hand him over
- jaw bone
- 1000 men
- thirsty
- drank from hallow place
- “spring of caller”

Bad to Worse

Judges 16:1 ESV

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

- Lust leads to lust.
 - **sin to sin**
- Weakening of Morals...

12 Step Groups

- Nazirite Vow?
 - true to God?
 - Why strength
- God is patient.
 - giving time.
- Ambush
 - Carried gates
 - Gaze to Hebron
 - 38 miles.
 - Hill facing
- Story of God's Mercy
 - Still had strength...
- Still had calling...

More Love?

Judges 16:4 ESV

After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

- Love?
 - no
- Lust!

Patriarchs and Prophets (Chapter 54—Samson)

Physically, Samson was the strongest man upon the earth; but in self-control, integrity, and firmness, he was one of the weakest of men. Many mistake strong passions for a strong character, but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man.

— PP p. 567

- Next Sentence
 - Most Important...

Patriarchs and Prophets Chapter 54—Samson

The real greatness of the man is measured by the power of the feelings that he controls, not by those that control him.

- Bribe
 - 1100 piece of silver.
 - secret of strength

Judges 16:7 ESV

Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

- He lied

Judges 16:9 ESV

Now she had men lying in ambush in an inner chamber. And she said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he snapped the bowstrings, as a thread of flax snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

- another lie

Judges 16:11 ESV

And he said to her, “If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used,

then I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

- didn't work

Judges 16:12 ESV

So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And the men lying in ambush were in an inner chamber. But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread.

- She is upset

Playing with Fire

Judges 16:13 ESV

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.”

- Getting closer to truth...
- Sampson is
 - playing with fire

- Really thinks,
 - God will
 - bless him
 - in sin
- Acts like
 - no limit
 - to God's patience
- She finally gets him.
 - Same words as before

Judges 16:15 ESV

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."

- "You say you love me but..."

- Explains Nazirite Vow.

Judges 16:20 ESV

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.

- Heart Breaking words

“He did not know that the Lord had left him.”

- Played with fire
 - lived in sin
 - presumption

Not About Hair

Patriarchs and Prophets (Chapter 54—Samson)

There was no virtue in his long hair merely, but it was a token of his loyalty to God; and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited.

- Failed Calling

Judges 16:21 ESV

And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison.

- Satan does
 - to his subjects!

Repentance

- Prison is
 - good place to think.
- Time out.

“Think about what you have done.”

- His heart is softened.

Judges 16:22 ESV

But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

- Not about hair length.
 - never was.
- God is not so arbitrary

Rest of Story

Pillars

Judges 16:30 ESV

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.

- Some what fulfilled calling?

Lessons?

- Conclusions:
 - a. Parenting
 1. Choose Friends
 2. God is Patient.
 3. God is Forgiving.
 4. We Have a Calling.
 5. Missed Opportunities.
 - Causes
 - Lust
 - Pride
 - Anger
 - Revenge
 - (Not Forgiving)

Appeal

1. Seek Your Calling.

2. Live Without Regrets.

3. Confront Sin

a. Cancer of Heart

b. Lust

c. Pride

d. Anger

e. Unforgiveness