



Lesson #7: A Rebel Restored (Judges 16)

The Bible doesn't read like a fairy tale. Not every story ends in "happily ever after" and not every story has a "noble hero." The book of Judges is certainly a prime example of that. But I believe that God weaves the stories of these men's lives into the pages of Scripture to remind us that no one is beyond His _____ . God delights in using repentant people who might even carry a great deal of dirty laundry.

Today, I invite you to study with me the life of _____. When we read his life we can't help but think of his superhuman strength but we are also reminded of his super hurtful fall from grace. There were shameful moments recorded about Samson's life but his rebellion recorded at the beginning of chapter 16 isn't the last section we read about him. Judges 16:21-31 is often referred to as "Samson's _____ ." Samson teaches us some valuable lessons about rebellion we do well to review.

YOUR _____ WILL COST YOU DEEPLY

Samson's sin led to great losses, some of which were irrecoverable. He carried the scars of his sin with him to his death.

- A. Rebellion will cost you your _____**
Judges 14:6 says of Samson that "*The Spirit of the Lord came upon him.*" But the sunshine of the Lord's Spirit was obscured by the clouds of lustful sensuality. Samson demonstrated that which is at war within all of us. We may have God's Spirit dwelling within us but we still war with Him.
- B. Rebellion will cost you your _____**
The freedom Samson once enjoyed was abruptly taken from him (Judges 16:21). He was captured by the Philistines. They took his freedom and now this mighty man would die a _____. One person wisely said, "Sin always promises more than it gives, takes you further than you want to go, and leaves you _____ than you were before."
- C. Rebellion will cost you your _____**
Samson learned the hard way that not only does sin bring about terrible consequences for the sinner; he also learned that sin in the lives of God's people always reflects badly on the _____.

YOUR _____ IS AVAILABLE THROUGH DEVOTION

Samson's story gives us the account of the restoration of a fallen hero.

- A. God's mercy is shown in _____**
"*The hair of his head began to grow again*" (16:22). This was a slow process. All that means is that Samson was in the process of restoration for a _____ time. His return to usefulness did not come overnight. God is in the restoration business but this takes time.
- B. God's mercy is shown in _____**
Samson may have fallen but God was still not done with him. Samson no doubt felt dejected, humiliated, and alone as he worked as a slave with no eyes. But God was not done with Samson's life. One person said, "Never _____ on God because He never _____ on you." God is there with you and for you. He will never let His children go.

YOUR _____ IS DETERMINED BY YOUR DUTY

Did you know that Samson's name is recorded in the NT? He is included in Hebrews 11 which is often called "The Hall of _____" but could just as easily be called "The Hall of _____." These verses remind us that the successful Christian is not a person who never fails, but is a person who when they fail, gets back up and goes on for the Lord (Proverbs 24:16).

- A. When you are restored your _____ life returns**
In his darkness, humiliation, and imprisonment, Samson turns his _____ toward the Lord. He has it in his heart to destroy the Philistines and prays that he might get the chance to do just that (16:28). This is, after all, why the Lord raised him up to begin with. The horrors he suffered at the hands of the Philistines caused him to examine his life and take the necessary steps of returning to God.
- B. When you are restored your _____ returns**
It was in his _____ that Samson finally fulfilled God's call on His life (16:30). The whole point here is that Samson's potential is finally realized. God used Samson again. He used him to strike a blow against the enemies of the Lord.

Concluding Thoughts

In many ways Samson's story is both tragic and convicting. If there is a lesson to be taken away it would be this: _____ carries a devastatingly high price. When you engage in sin you must be prepared to face the consequences.

But Samson's story is also triumphant and encouraging. Another lesson presents itself: **Sin does not have to _____ your life.** There is a place for repentance and restoration.

Too often we waste the golden opportunities God has given us. But because God has given you so much you must never waste it in foolish rebellion.