

“Samson Brings Down the House”  
Judges 16:21-31  
(Preached at Trinity, July 26, 2015)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Chapter 13** we read the account of the revelation of the Angel of the Lord to Manoah and his barren wife of the birth of a son—a son consecrated from the womb.
  - A. He would become Israel’s deliverer from the oppression of the Philistines. More particularly, he would be God’s instrument in restoring the separation between His holy people and the pagan nations.
  - B. As **Chapter 14** opened we find Samson as a young adult enamored by a Philistine woman. We also read in **Chapter 14** the first indication of Samson’s strength and the source of his strength.  
**Judges 14:5-6 NAU** - "Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion *came* roaring toward him. <sup>6</sup> The Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand"
2. The clear source of his strength was God. He was consecrated by God, set apart for God’s holy use. This is the nature of all of God’s people. We are set apart as God’s possession, God’s holy people. We must always protect and preserve our consecration.
3. But we are always in great danger. Samson failed to realize this
  - A. He was careless with his consecration. He continually lived in violation of his Nazirite vows. He did not treasure his consecration which ultimately resulted in the loss of his power.
  - B. Samson’s problem was Israel’s problem. They had ceased being God’s distinct people.  
**Judges 21:25-1:1 NAU** - "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. "
  - C. Samson forever stands as a warning to all those who would forsake their consecration. There is always a danger of being drawn to our lusts that will enslave us and blind us. Sin always has consequences.  
We must not carelessly wander from our dependence upon Christ.  
We must not vainly pretend that our strength is our own.  
We must never cease being watchful. We are always in danger.  
Matthew Henry: “Satan ruins men by rocking them to sleep”
4. We see the tragic spectacle of Samson’s fall in **Verse 21**  
**Judges 16:21 NAU** - "Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison."
5. But this isn’t the end of the story. God will not be mocked and He will not abandon His consecrated people. Tonight I want us to explore two simple points.
  - I. God will always vindicate His holy name
  - II. God will always come to the aid of His people

- I. God will always vindicate His holy name
- A. The author gives much attention to the Philistines - He wants us to see their foolishness
1. The Philistines were pagan idolaters who mocked and despised Israel's God. It is always foolish to deny God His rightful worship  
**Psalms 14:1 NAU** - "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good."
  2. The author seems to mock the Philistines
    - a. They blinded Samson but they were the true blinded ones as they trusted their lives to Dagon\
    - b. Did they somehow miss the fact that Samson's hair was growing back?  
**V. 22** - "However, the hair of his head began to grow again"
    - c. Did they really believe Dagon could save them?  
**Judges 16:23 NAU** - "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hands."
    - d. In mocking Samson, the servant of God, they were actually mocking God.
- B. The foolishness of the Philistines is the foolishness of mankind
1. They receive of God's rich blessings and mercy and curse and mock Him. Their ingratitude is great wickedness.  
**Romans 1:21-22 NAU** - "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools"
  2. The people of this world deny God and glory in their independence.  
**Judges 16:24 NAU** - "When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hands, Even the destroyer of our country, Who has slain many of us." What they didn't realize was the destroyer of their country was God, and He would not be defeated.
  3. It was a day of great celebration. We see this all the time. It can be seen in the same-sex marriage issue today.
    - a. Homosexuality has been around for thousands of years—going back to the corruption following the fall.  
**Romans 1:24-27 NAU** - "Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup> and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error."

- b. What we are seeing in our day is the celebration of sin. It is a grand demonstration of casting off God's design of marriage.  
**Genesis 2:24 NAU** - "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."  
 Worse, it is the grand demonstration of casting off God.
- c. The Philistines were celebrating the defeat of God. They were offering up praises to their god.  
**Judges 16:23 NAU** - "Now the lords of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god"
- d. This is the display at the gay parades. It is a grand celebration of liberty from God. And this was the display at the Supreme Court – They have cast off the rule of God.  
**Psalms 2:2-3 NAU** - "And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"
4. The Philistines were having a grand celebration.  
**Judges 16:25 NAU** - "It so happened when they were in high spirits, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may amuse us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he entertained them. And they made him stand between the pillars."  
 a. Those of the highest office were present – the national leaders were there.  
 b. Three thousand were present to celebrate their greatness  
**Judges 16:27 NAU** - "Now the house was full of men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there. And about 3,000 men and women were on the roof looking on while Samson was amusing *them*."
5. It is fearful to watch our nation celebrating their liberty from God's rule  
**Romans 1:22 NAU** - "Professing to be wise, they became fools"
- C. God will vindicate His holy name
1. God is infinitely holy. It is amazing He condescends to an active presence in this fallen world. His mercy is truly glorious.
2. God is patient and forbearing, but He will surely act at the time He has appointed.  
**Nahum 1:3 NAU** - "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished."  
**Psalms 2:2-5 NAU** - "The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup> Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury"
3. God will not be mocked. He will not share His glory. He WILL be worshipped.  
**Isaiah 42:8 NAU** - "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images."

4. Ezekiel declared God's vindication  
**Ezekiel 36:23 NAU** - "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight."

D. The false gods and idols of this world will be crushed and all who bow before them will be judged.

1. The Philistine god Dagon was proven to be helpless before God.
  - a. This was demonstrated when the Philistines captured the Ark  
**1 Samuel 5:1-4 NAU** - "Now the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. <sup>2</sup> Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it to the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. <sup>3</sup> When the Ashdodites arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set him in his place again. <sup>4</sup> But when they arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. And the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off on the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him."
  - b. This was God's declaration that Dagon had no power to think, no eyes to see, ears to hear, mouth to speak, or hands to act.  
 David wrote in Psalm 115  
**Psalms 115:3-8 NAU** - "But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. <sup>4</sup> Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands. <sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; <sup>6</sup> They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; <sup>7</sup> They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. <sup>8</sup> Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them."
2. With Samson's final act and the death of the 3000 Philistines God was again demonstrating He will not tolerate other gods.
3. The Day of Judgment will be the ultimate great vindication of God's holy name. This is God's ultimate purpose in the Fall and in redemptive history—that His glory would be vindicated—His wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth would be displayed in infinite brightness.
5. Are you following Him, serving Him? Are you giving Him the glory He deserves?

II. God will always come to the aid of His people

A. What a sad picture we see in Samson

1. From a powerful man filled with pride and arrogance to a poor blinded man who spends his days grinding grain in the Philistine prison and being led about by the hand of a boy.

2. But God knows how to humble His people. He will have us to look to Him alone.
 

**Jeremiah 9:23-24 NAU** - "Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD."
  3. The good news is Samson did turn to back to God. This is the second time we find Samson calling upon God.
    - a. We find it in **Chapter 15** where Samson refers to himself as God's servant.
 

**Judges 15:18 NAU** - "Then he became very thirsty, and he called to the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant, and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"
    - b. Now we find it again
 

**Judges 16:28 NAU** - "Then Samson called to the LORD"
    - c. Both come in the context of Samson recognizing his helplessness. That's the point where we need to live.
    - d. Samson continually forgot that but his life ends at the point where he once again sees his need of God's strength.
  3. He recognizes that his power is from God.
    - a. On the surface his prayer seems self-serving
 

**Judges 16:28 NAU** - "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."
    - b. Samson knew that an attack upon him was an attack upon God. He was God's servant. Samson is crying out for vindication, both for himself and for God—and he was willing to die in the process.
    - c. He recognizes his complete helplessness without God and cries out for help.
- B. Sin always has consequences
1. Samson lost his leadership in Israel
  2. He lost his consecration, his strength, his fellowship with God.
  3. He lost his eyes and his freedom
  4. We must never think we are strong enough to stand
 

**1 Corinthians 10:12 NAU** - "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall."

How tragic when we hear stories of pastors who lose their family, their ministry, their good name all for the sake of a single fulfillment of lust.
  5. Sin is never without consequence. It always has an effect upon our relationship with Christ. It will affect our communion with Christ but it will never affect our union with Him. He will always draw His own back to Him.

- C. God will always hear the cry of his children when we return  
**Psalms 61:1-4 NAU** - "Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. <sup>2</sup>  
 From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to  
 the rock that is higher than I. <sup>3</sup> For You have been a refuge for me, A  
 tower of strength against the enemy."
1. God heard Samson's cry in **Chapter 15**  
**Judges 15:18-19 NAU** - "Then he became very thirsty, and he  
 called to the LORD and said, "You have given this great  
 deliverance by the hand of Your servant, and now shall I die of  
 thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" <sup>19</sup> But God split  
 the hollow place that is in Lehi so that water came out of it."
  2. And now in the end God hears Samson's cry and restored his strength
    - a. Samson had fallen into sin. He succumbed to the cries of the pagan  
 Delilah and squandered his consecration.
    - b. But in the end he cries out to God and God hears his cry.
    - c. Mention of the re-growth of his hair is the token of the return of his  
 Nazirite vow, the return of his consecration, and the return of his  
 strength.

#### Conclusion:

1. The first lesson we can learn from Samson is the treasure of our consecration. It must be protected and preserved. We must remain spotless before God as His particular possession.
2. The second lesson we can learn from Samson is it's never too late to call upon God.  
**Psalms 50:15 NAU** - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me."
3. Finally, in all of our weakness, God does not cast us off. Samson may have died with his enemies but he did not share their lot.  
**2 Timothy 2:19 NAU** - "Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."
4. In all of our weakness God still uses us. God's purpose in raising up Samson was to put a clear demarcation between God's people and the Philistines. That the Philistines would be clearly labeled as the enemies of God's people. Mission accomplished.  
 God will not have us to intermingle with those who live in opposition to Him. His charge will ever be, "Come out from among them and be ye separate."