

SAMSON: Man of Strength, Man of Weakness

Lesson Three • Judges 15:1-20

Vengeance Is Mine!

An Angry Man Gets Even:

Samson, the “deliverer,” never fights a battle for God’s HONOR but only for his own REVENGE against the Philistines.

A Three-Act Drama of Revenge:

Act 1: Samson’s Personal REVENGE! *Judges 15:1-8*

Getting Even:

- Samson avenges his ruined MARRIAGE. vs. 1-5

- Samson avenges his wife’s DEATH. vs. 6-8

The Cycle of Revenge:

When you try to seek revenge for the WRONGS done to you, you set in motion a never-ending cycle of revenge. That’s why revenge belongs to the Lord.

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.” Romans 12:19 (ESV)

The Christlike Responsibility:

We are to BLESS those who persecute us and PRAY for those (not prey on those) who mistreat us.

“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” ~Jesus, Luke 6:27-28

Act 2: Samson’s Amazing VICTORY! *Judges 15:9-17*

Making Donkeys of the Philistines:

- The Judeans ACCOMMODATED the enemy because of fear and sin. vs. 9-13

- Samson DEFEATED the enemy with the jawbone of a donkey. vs. 14-17

Victory On Jawbone Hill:

When Samson names the place of victory RAMATH LEHI (“Hill of the Jawbone”), he commemorates himself, but not his God.

Act 3: Samson’s Greatest PRAYER! *Judges 15:18-20*

Samson’s Greatest Prayer Comes After His Greatest Victory!

And yet, Samson’s prayer is a curious mixture of both FAITH in God and self-centered COMPLAINT.

God’s Grace to Samson:

- God supplied Samson with WATER. vs. 18-19

- God established Samson as JUDGE. vs. 20

Life Lessons from a Flawed Hero:

- ❖ Missed OPPORTUNITIES are often the result of spiritual compromise.
- ❖ God’s anointing on an individual is not always His stamp of APPROVAL on a person’s conduct.
- ❖ There’s always HOPE for modern-day “Samsons” with God’s grace.