



March 1, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Overcoming My Failures to Finish Strong Judges 13-16

Samson: Failures We May Need To Overcome

- **Failures in my relationships.** Judges 14:1-4; 15:1, 2
In marriage - Exodus 34:12-16; II Corinthians 6:14, 15
With family/parents - Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3
- **Failure in my anger and attitude which causes pain in others.** Judges 14:6-15:7
Ephesians 4:26, 27
- **Failure to lead others into righteousness.** Judges 15:9-11
- **Failure in sexual immorality and temptation.** Judges 16
I Corinthians 6:15-18; I John 2:15, 16
- **Failure that results in a poor testimony for the Lord.** Judges 16:23, 24

God: Overcoming Our Failures to Finish Strong

- **Be assured, God's grace can overcome our failures to cause a greater good.** Judges 14:4; Romans 8:28-30
God's "good" may not be visible and seem unfair.
God's "good" requires a larger view of His calling for our lives.
- **Believe in Jesus and confess your failures to receive His Spirit to empower you.** Judges 14:4, 6, 19; 15:14
Titus 3:5; I Corinthians 6:18-20; 12:7; Ephesians 5:18
- **God may humble us, so that we need to turn to Him.** Judges 16:21-27
II Corinthians 12:7-10
- **Ask for God's blessing for another chance to serve Him and finish strong.** Judges 16:28-30

Digging Deeper:

Samson is one of the best known judges in the Old Testament. He served in the southern part of Israel about 1069-1049 BC. His story is challenging since so much of his behavior is inconsistent with biblical instruction on how the Jewish people are to live. And yet God used him in a mighty way to attack the Philistines who were enemies of Israel. You may recall that Goliath was one of the best known Philistines that King David killed.

Samson was a Nazirite (meaning “devoted” or “consecrated”). He was a person whose vow of separation to God included abstaining from fermented drink, refraining from cutting his hair, and avoiding contact with dead bodies (Numbers 6:2-6). Nazirite vows were normally for a limited period of time, but Samson was to be a Nazirite of God all his life (Judges 13:7).

LifeGroup Discussion and Questions:

Consider a time in your life when you experienced failure. What have you learned from that experience? How have you grown since that time?

Our God is so amazing. He will allow us to fail and yet still use that experience to advance His work and will in all our lives. That is the case with Samson.

Based on some of the failures of Samson, read and reflect what these passages teach us in those same areas today. We do have the advantage of more revelation from God on these areas and therefore are more accountable to Him.

In dating and marriage: What is God’s warning and why in II Corinthians 6:14-18?

In dealing with our parents, how are we to treat them? What are some examples of that in your life? Ephesians 6:1-3

Samson expressed anger and revenge in Judges 14:19 and 15:7. While that can be understandable, we are warned by God about the improper use and degree of anger and revenge. What do these passages teach you about anger and revenge: Ephesians 4:26, 27 and Romans 12:17-21?

Samson’s attitude regarding his great power was rather casual and presumptuous as Delilah sought the source of his power. Such a cavalier attitude toward a gift from God does not honor Him. That attitude toward women allowed him to commit sexual immorality and fall into temptation in Judges 16. How are we to live regarding sexual temptation and behavior according to I Corinthians 6:12-20?

But God can overcome our failures and bring good to our lives. Read Romans 8:28-30. What does God promise in those verses? How have you experienced that in your life, or how have you seen God accomplish that in another person’s life?

Samson had great power because of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the Spirit would come and go according to the time and task at hand. For us, the Spirit indwells all believers in Jesus permanently. You can read more about the Spirit’s role in our lives from the following passages: Titus 3:5 He cleanses us; Ephesians 1:13, 14; 4:40 He seals us until heaven; Ephesians 5:18 He fills us to control us but sinful behavior like drunkenness diminishes His power in us; I Corinthians 12:7, 11 He empowers us for service; I Corinthians 6:19 He empowers us to overcome sexual temptation; John 16:8-11 He convicts us of sin.

Next Steps:

- 1. Connect in a LifeGroup to encourage and guide you as you deal with challenging issues of life.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary’s campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
- 2. Become part of our discipleship ministry where another person comes alongside for encouragement and guidance to help you grow in your faith.** A Discipleship Mentor can walk with you through the “Following Jesus” course, which journeys through the foundational elements of following Jesus. For info, contact Laura Copeland at LCopeland@calvarylife.org or calvarylife.org/discipleship