

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 7

Samson

INTRODUCTION: One of the saddest stories in all the Bible is the story of Samson. More than most any man in the Bible, it is said of Samson, “And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him.” See Judges 14:19 for one example. He was no doubt one of the greatest men in the Bible. The Lord even chose to include him in the hall of heroes in the Bible.

I. THE STEPS IN SAMSON’S DOWNFALL.

1. He saw a woman. See Judges 14:1. Samson’s problem through his life was the opposite sex. Again in verse 2 he says, “I have seen a woman.”
2. He married an unsaved woman. Notice Judges 14:3. This has always been against the plan of God and is always a step down.
3. He wanted what he felt would please himself. Judges 14:3d, “Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.” These are words which will lead to the downfall of any Christian. A Christian is pleased only when he is pleasing the Lord. That which pleases us now will not please us in the long run.
4. Samson played with temptation too long. Review Judges 14:16, 17; 16:15, 16. He thought he could resist. He thought he was strong enough, and he did resist for a season. After a while he was worn down. This same thing is going to happen to anyone who plays with the same temptation too long.
5. Divorce came into Samson’s life. See Judges 14:20; 15:1, 2. (Warn the class here of the danger of divorce.)
6. Samson took the credit for the victories that God alone deserves. Read Judges 15:16.

II. THE MAIN REASON FOR SAMSON’S FALLING. He broke a promise to God. Samson had been a Nazarite from his birth. A Nazarite was a specially dedicated person allowed to take no wine or strong drink into his mouth and pledging that no razor would come upon his head. Samson’s power was not in his hair necessarily, but in his promise to God that he would not have a razor on his head. When he revealed to Delilah this secret, he had broken his promise to God, which is one of the most serious things anyone can do.

III. THE RESULT OF SAMSON’S SIN.

1. Sin blinds. See Judges 16:21a. Someone in sin is blinded to its awfulness, and Satan blinds us to the results.
2. Sin binds. He thought he could play with sin. He thought he could take it or leave it, but eventually he was bound by his sin.
3. Sin grinds. Oh, the monotony of a life wasted in sin! It looks spectacular for a while, but how grinding it becomes! We seek another sin for excitement until it becomes grinding, and then we seek yet another for excitement until it becomes grinding. You can picture Samson bound and blinded and grinding in the prison house.

IV. SOME OF SAMSON’S ACHIEVEMENTS.

1. He used the jawbone of a donkey to slay one thousand Philistines.
2. At one time he caught three hundred foxes, tied them together in pairs by their tails with a burning torch between them, and turned them loose among the ripened grain of the Philistines.
3. He tore a lion in two just as if it had been a small animal. He did this bare-handed.
4. He was strong enough to kill thirty men at one time.
5. He once took two middle pillars of a house, bore one up with his right hand and the other up with his left and brought down the house.
6. It is said again and again that the Spirit came upon him.

CONCLUSION: What a tragedy that someone so mighty has fallen! The higher we climb, the longer is the fall and the more serious it is and the more people who are involved! As we grow in grace, let us be careful that our weakest point does not prove fatal to our strongest point.