

Samson's Fall: Judges 16 **09-18-16 AM**

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

When we consider the life of Samson, we usually consider two aspects of it: his great strength, and his great weakness. Judges 16 records the fall of Samson. It is an important lesson, because it applies directly to the life of a Christian.

One consideration is that throughout the life of Samson we have seen a disregard for maintaining the sanctification that was part of his Nazirite vow. When he ate the honey from the lion carcass, he did something unclean (Lev. 11:27). When he married the Philistine, he broke the law (Deut. 7:3). When he visited the harlot, he defiled himself (Lev. 19:29). But his relationship with Delilah (whom the Bible says he loved) proved to be his undoing, when he gave her his sanctification that was supposed to be dedicated to God.

Judges 16:20b *But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.*

Why did Samson tell his secret? Scriptures say that it was because of her constant asking, but perhaps too there was some reasoning behind what appears to be a ridiculous surrender. Perhaps he thought *"I love her, so it is okay"*. Maybe he thought that with all of his previous indiscretions, *"So far I have not lost my strength"* or *"My strength is in me"* or *"God strengthens me no matter what"*. Maybe he just thought that *"My hair isn't really necessary"*. Whatever he thought, clearly he was wrong.

APPLICATION: Christians are the new Nazirite. Rather than just sanctified in our hair, our entire body is a temple to God. In I Corinthians 6:10-20, Paul describes the Christian's physical body as a temple for the dwelling of the Holy Spirit. He says that this indwelling (one which occurs by faith, comes at our washing, and results in our justification) continues because of the sanctification of our bodies; if we do anything in the flesh to desecrate this (his emphasis here is sexual immorality), we lose our sanctification, and our body is no longer a temple to God. Thus, our prayers are unheard, our sacrifices are in vain, and our salvation is lost.

Why would we throw it away? For the very same reasons Samson threw it away. Perhaps we engage in sexual immorality because *"I love him/her"*. Perhaps we continue to drink because *"So far I have not lost my strength"*. Maybe we walk in in profanity because we believe our strength is within our own life. Maybe we think we are too important to God to be cast aside. Or maybe we just don't think we need to remain pure. No matter the reason, when we desecrate our body with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, we too must know that the Lord departs from us.

When Samson was overcome, he was blinded by his captors. Consider the irony of this; Samson's eyes have been his problem all along. Jesus said we are better off to pluck out our eyes than to enter hell with both of them. Samson, without his eyes, turns to the Lord, and his final act ends his life.

Samson is an important example to a Christian. He was destroyed by carelessness. He threw away his great gift. We need to remember we can do the same.

Hebrews 2:3 *How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*