

ANSWERS TO LIFE'S PROBLEMS
"HOW CAN I GET OUT OF THIS MESS?"
JUDGES 13-16

SAMSON HAD EVERYTHING GOING FOR HIM, BUT HE GOT HIMSELF INTO A HUGE MESS. HIS LIFE'S STORY EXEMPLIFIES THREE OF THE MOST COMMON WAYS THAT WE BRING TROUBLES ON OURSELVES, WAYS THAT GET US INTO BIG MESSSES. FROM SAMSON'S GOOF WE CAN LEARN THREE THINGS WHICH WILL HELP US AVOID GETTING INTO SOME TERRIBLE MESSSES.

I. LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES

SAMSON HAD TWO BIG WEAKNESSES IN HIS LIFE, AND HE NEVER LEARNED TO CONTROL EITHER OF THEM. THEY EVENTUALLY LED TO HIS DOWNFALL. HIS FIRST WEAKNESS WAS A BAD TEMPER. HIS WHOLE LIFE WAS FILLED WITH ANGER, AND AT TIMES IT WAS UNCONTROLLABLE.

THE OTHER BIG WEAKNESS WAS HIS UNCONTROLLED PHYSICAL DESIRE. HE WAS PHYSICALLY STRONG BUT MORALLY WEAK. THIS, TOO, LED TO HIS DOWNFALL. HIS WHOLE LIFE WAS A CYCLE OF FAILURES. HE NEVER LEARNED; HE KEPT MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

SAMSON MADE A BIG MISTAKE WITH DELILAH. LIKE HIM, IF WE DO NOT LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES, WE WILL BECOME WEAKENED LITTLE BY LITTLE EVERYDAY, AND WE WILL GET INTO A HUGE MESS.

II. CHOOSE THE RIGHT FRIENDS

WE ARE ASKING FOR TROUBLE IF WE CHOOSE THE WRONG FRIENDS. WE WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME LIKE THE PEOPLE WE SPEND THE MOST TIME WITH. THAT IS WHY WE SHOULD CHOOSE OUR FRIENDS WISELY.

SAMSON HAD UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS. GOD HAD A SPECIAL PURPOSE FOR HIM, BUT HIS FRIENDS LED HIM ASTRAY.

LIKewise, GOD HAS A SPECIAL PURPOSE FOR ALL OF US, BUT WE CAN GET INTO TROUBLE IF WE DO NOT CHOOSE THE RIGHT KINDS OF PEOPLE TO SPEND TIME WITH. CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO WRONG ATTITUDES AND WRONG VALUES WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE A TOLL ON US. WE SHOULD HAVE THE KIND OF FRIENDS WHO WILL LIFT US UP, NOT BRING US DOWN.

III. TAKE GOD SERIOUSLY

WE SEE SAMSON NEGLECTING THIS PRINCIPLE ALL THROUGH HIS LIFE. SAMSON WAS CARELESS ABOUT HIS SPIRITUAL LIFE. HE NEVER GOT REALLY SERIOUS WITH GOD, AND IT SHOWED UP IN MORE THAN ONE WAY.

TO BEGIN WITH, HE WAS ALWAYS DOING HIS OWN THING. HE LET HIS OWN PERSONAL DESIRES DICTATE HIS ACTIONS.

ANOTHER THING WE SEE IN SAMSON'S LIFE IS THAT HE NEVER PRAYED ABOUT ANYTHING, EXCEPT BEFORE HIS FINAL ACT. HE WAS IMPULSIVE AND IMPETUOUS. HE DID NOT ASK GOD FOR HIS DIRECTION. HE JUST WENT AHEAD AND DID WHAT HE WANTED. TO MANY PEOPLE THE LORD IS AN AFTERTHOUGHT. WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH, THEY RUN TO HIM, BUT WHEN THINGS ARE ALL RIGHT, THEY IGNORE HIM.

AFTER EVERYTHING HAD FALLEN APART, SAMSON FINALLY PRAYED. SAMSON'S PRAYERLESSNESS CAUSED HIM TO LOSE HIS GREAT POTENTIAL. HE LOST HIS FREEDOM, HE LOST HIS INTEGRITY, AND HE LOST HIS LIFE.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



THE GOOD NEWS FROM THIS STORY IS THAT WE SEE GOD NEVER GAVE UP ON SAMSON. HE WAS ABLE TO USE HIM ONE LAST TIME. EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE MESSED UP, GOD IS STILL ABLE TO USE US. HE HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON US. AT THE END OF HIS LIFE, SAMSON TURNED EVERYTHING OVER TO THE LORD. WE NEED TO DO THE SAME TODAY. WE CAN GET OUT OF A HUGE MESS IF WE RELY ON THE LORD. GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO HAVE WEAKNESSES AND HAVE MADE MANY MISTAKES. HE STILL LOVES US AND CAN STILL USE US FOR HIS GLORY.