

Broken People/Faithful God

Judges 13-14

Believers cull **lessons from Samson's life** by looking at a broken leader through whom a faithful God still accomplished His purposes.

● THREE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR A BROKEN LIFE

One day Samson went down to Timnah, where he noticed a certain Philistine woman.

²*He went back home and said to his father and mother, "There is a Philistine woman down at Timnah who has caught my attention. Get her for me; I want to marry her."*

³*But his father and mother asked him, "Why do you have to go to those heathen Philistines to get a wife? Can't you find a girl in our own clan, among all our people?" But Samson said to his father, "She is the one I want you to get for me. I like her."*

⁴*His parents did not know that it was the LORD who was leading Samson to do this, for the LORD was looking for a chance to fight the Philistines. At this time the Philistines were ruling Israel. Judges 14:1-4 (Good News Translation)*

- Prescription #1: Samson's life was dominated by his appetites.

Self-discipline is not denying our drives and desires; but it is submitting those desires to the will of God and the timing of God.

Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32 (New International Version)

See Deuteronomy 7:3-4.

"She is the one I want you to get for me." = "She is right in my eyes."

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit. Judges 17:6 (NIV)

- Prescription #2: Samson failed to live under authority.

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, . . . Titus 3:1 (NIV)

- Prescription #3: Samson was unaware of his own weaknesses.

Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the

answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" ¹⁷*She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people. Judges 14:16-17 (NIV)*

"She continued to press him" = "She pressured him."

Denial = what happens when a person is faced with a fact (often about themselves) that is too uncomfortable to accept and rejects it instead.

● THREE FACETS OF A FAITHFUL GOD

- Facet #1: God was faithful to prepare Samson and supply what he needed.

A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. ³The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son. ⁴Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean, ⁵because you will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines." Judges 13:2-5 (NIV)

. . . and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him [Samson] while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol. Judges 13:25 (NIV)

(See Ephesians 1:3)

- Facet #2: God was faithful to accomplish His purposes even through bad choices.

(See Judges 13:4)

- Facet #3: God was faithful to help Samson know His strength at work in him.

So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother. As they were going through the vineyards there, he heard a young lion roaring. ⁶Suddenly the power of the LORD made Samson strong, and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands, as if it were a young goat . . . Judges 14:5-6 (GNT)

(See 1 Samuel 17:34-37)

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