

Extraordinarily Normal 5 – Samson

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Samson's life choices were "X" rated.

Samson made choices based upon his desires, not his purpose and relationship with God.

This is about as human as it gets!

The Story

- Israel is being ruled by the Philistines for a 40-year period.
- Samson was a judge in Israel for 20 years.

The Beginning

- An angel appears to Samson's mother.
- He will "Begin the Deliverance" from the Philistines.
- He must be a "Nazarite" from birth.
 - Abstain from all alcohol
 - Do not cut your hair
 - Cannot be even near a dead body
 - If accidentally by a dead body – shave your head
 - Shaving Head = Repentance and Restoration

Samson's Life

The Spirit of God comes upon him and he kills a lion, like shredding a piece of paper.

- He eats honey out of the carcass of the lion and doesn't shave his head.

Samson marries a woman and leaves her on their wedding day.

- He comes back months later to have sex with her.
- Her father has already given her to another to marry.
- The conflict that results gets his wife and her father killed.

The Philistines demand that Israel hand over Samson.

- They hand him over alive and bound.
- The Spirit of God comes upon him and he kills 1,000 with the jawbone of a donkey.
- He broke his vow to fulfill the purpose of God and didn't shave his head.

He sleeps with a prostitute and they plan to kill him in the morning.

- He leaves in the middle of the night with the gates of the city.

Samson and Delilah – Sowing and Reaping Shave

- She betrays him for money

Judges 16:15-22 – ¹⁵ Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." ¹⁶ With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. ¹⁷ So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man." ¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. ¹⁹ Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

²⁰ Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!"

He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. ²¹ Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. ²² But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

His hair grew back.

- 3,000 leaders bring him out to perform for them and mock him.
- He finds the support pillars and God restores his strength.
- His final act greatly weakened the Philistines, and Israel began to be released from their captivity.

The life of Samson reveals 3 major things:

1. You cannot walk in your purpose without walking with your God.

James 1:13-15 – ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Forsake your sin.

Proverbs 28:13-14 – ¹³ People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy. ¹⁴ Blessed are those who have a tender conscience, but the stubborn are headed for serious trouble.

Sin occurs when we believe the lie that we can be fulfilled outside of the plan of God for our lives.

“Hath God said” is the foundation for every deception and sin in our lives.

Sin reveals that we trust ourselves to deal with the hurts, pains, and desires of our lives, more than our loving Father.

“The worst thing you can do, once you realize you’re on the wrong road, is hope it turns into the right one.” - *Dr. Henry Cloud*

2. Relationships matter.

I Corinthians 15:33 - Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

3. Even though we may reap consequences, God is willing to restore our lives and purpose.

- Even after catastrophic failure and terrible consequences, God can restore your purpose.
- Even our deepest failures can result in redemption when we tap into the mercy of God.
- Samson is listed in Hebrews in the list of the heroes of faith.