

## **LESSON 4C – Saving Faith and Perfect Faith**

### **Remember our Training**

- Faith is
  - Believing that God is.
  - Believing that God will do what he says he will do.
  - Believing that God is good and a rewarder of those who seek Him.
  - Trusting and Taking Joy in Jesus Christ alone
- Justifying faith
  - There is a minimum amount of faith required to be justified.
  - Requires
    - Repentance from Sin towards Obedience to Christ
    - Joyful trust in the work of Christ on the Cross...crucifixion, death, resurrection
- Maturing faith (faith being perfected)
  - True faith never stays small because God prunes it...perfects it. John 15:1-11
  - Requires
    - Obedience
    - Expanding knowledge of Christ and doctrine through a renewing of the mind
    - Suffering
    - Walking with the Lord

### **Author and Perfecter of Faith**

- Author
  - He created all things...even faith.
  - The faith of the OT saints were written on the hearts of real people by Jesus Christ
- Perfecter
  - He did it perfectly. Heb 4:15; Dt 32:4
  - He calls us and trains us to do it more perfectly. Phil 3:12; Mt 5:48; Eph 4:13-15; Col 2:6-7
- If Jesus going to the cross is perfect faith what does imperfect faith look like?

## Two More Meals at Base Camp Called “By Faith”

**Gideon**



Ephesians 6:10-17

**Lesson 4B**

**Samson**



**Lesson 4C**

### Judges ... or also “Deliverers”

- God commanded the Israelites to take over the land but they failed to be obedient per Judges 1:27-37.
- Not necessarily examples to follow exactly...but certainly to learn from.
  - ...“And everyone did what they thought best in their own eyes.”
  - ...“And Israel did great evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Vicious cycle downward thru the book.
- Repeated cycle looks like the following:



### ...By Faith Samson

- I assume you each read the story of Samson prior to today ...Judges 13-16.
- Refresh your mind on how you would answer these 6 questions.
  1. What did the Lord want Samson to do?
  2. Did Samson keep his Nazarite vows?
  3. What was his sins?
  4. What evidence do we have he was faithful...or not?
  5. In the end, did Samson repent?
  6. Will Samson be in Heaven?



## **Do we read scripture in our eyes or by faith?**

- **Are we reading scripture with “what seems good in our eyes only” or “by faith”?**
- **Using our modern sinful flesh, we could almost think the following about Samson**
  - Unsaved...violent...unfaithful...vow breaking...self-glorifying...lustful pagan.
- **Why must we restrain or clarify our judgment of Samson?**
  - Because Hebrews says he was faithful...period.
- **So how do we go about testing our judgment to ensure it isn’t from “our eyes only” and is “by faith”?**
  - We need to test our judgments against the whole counsel of God’s word as it is the only true measuring rod.
  - Ask for the Holy Spirit to teach us.
  - Take effort to understand the OT scripture in light of their Jewish audience...i.e. how well do you know the OT scripture with respect to the Mosaic law...Nazarite vow...clean/unclean requirements...etc.? Do you care to even learn?
  - Be careful in jumping to conclusions too quickly.



## **Chapter 13 Summary**

- **Who is the Angel of the Lord?**
  - Similar to Gideon’s story....Jesus Christ Pre-incarnate.
  - How do we know this?
  - Angels never accept worship. Only God does.
  - Seeing God face to face was cause for the unrighteous to die. No one dies from seeing an angel.
  - Note his name is “**wonderful**” ...is Jesus full of Wonder to you?
- **Note the repetition of the requirements of the Nazarite vow emphasized by the Author.**
  - No eating or drinking from grape vine, no touching dead bodies (eating unclean things associated with this), no cutting hair.
- **Nazarite primer**
  - Numbers 6
  - Must keep all Jewish laws and then go beyond to keep Nazarite vow.
  - Usually a temporary time period.
  - If you fail to keep it, then you must provide needed sacrifice and shave head...essentially start all over as you nullify prior vow period.
  - Sort of a way of creating additional separateness for Jewish people. Priests had their own requirements for separateness / cleanliness.
  - Note Samson is to be a Nazarite from birth his whole life and will “begin” to oppose the Philistines.



## **Verse by Verse Chapter 14**

### • **Vs 1-4**

- Was it lawful to take wives from the Philistines?
  - (Israelites= Ex 34:11-16, Deut 7:1-4...Believers = 2 Cor 6:14-17)
- Is it Godly to refuse wise counsel from parents in choosing a spouse?
  - Proverbs 15:5, Eph 6:1-24
- What does “of the Lord” mean?
  - Sometimes God decrees things which He does not desire...for example, decreed the cross but does not desire the murder of His son...decreed we could sin but desires we would not sin...decreed Satan’s existence but desires he would be destroyed...etc.

### • **Vs 5-9**

- What does “come upon him mightily mean”? Is this the same as the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?
- Was Samson’s dating priorities Godly...i.e. she looked good to him...or literally “she is right in my eyes”? Pr 31:30, 2 Cor 5
- Why would the Holy Spirit include the portion about eating the honey in the body of the lion?
  - Touching unclean animal carcass and encouraging others to become unclean would be sinful (Dt 14:6-8)
  - Killing the lion (philistines) who roamed God’s vineyard (Israel) by God’s strength in Samson would create the Honey God promised.
  - If Samson was rebelling against his parents wishes, then not telling them about the incident with the Lion would make sense as Samson didn’t want his father to overrule his decision to marry a Philistine as the law allowed his father a last say.
  - Joining the pure honey (a Nazarite Isralite) with an unclean dead carcass of an unclean animal (unbelieving Philistine woman) would contaminate Samson...and his family because his father had the right to overrule Samson. By not doing so, his father would sin as well.

### • **Vs 10-20**

- What is going on with the feast and the riddle?
- Why would the Spirit come upon Samson mightily to kill and rob 30 people?
- Can this be the same God who said turn the other cheek and died on the cross for us?
  - Luke 22:35-38; Romans 13:3-4; John 18:36
- Was Samson unequally yoked with not only a future wife but also a best friend?
- Is Anger a sin?
  - Eph 4:26-27; Mark 3:5; James 1:19-20

## **Verse by Verse Chapter 15**

### • **Vs 1-5**

- Had Samson truly finished marrying?
- Why do you think her father tried to appease him with a more beautiful daughter?

- Does Samson acknowledge he was not blameless previously in his dealings with the Philistines? Who would have told him that?

- **Vs 6-8**

- Which side is righteous in their dealings...Samson or Philistines?
- Is revenge a Godly motive? (Matt 5:44)
- Why would he say he would quit?

- **Vs 9-13**

- Why are the 3000 men of Judah NOT seeking to expel the Philistines?

- **Vs 14-20**

- What is significant about the “fresh” jawbone of a donkey?
- Who did Samson initially give credit for his victory?
- Why did the Lord remind Him of his human fragility?
- Does this remind you of someone else...complaining in the desert? How did God respond?

## **Verse by Verse Chapter 16**

- **Vs 1-3**

- Did Samson have inappropriate relations with a harlot?

- **Vs 4-21**

- Was Samson married to Delilah? Is he yet attracted to another outsider?
- Why would he trust her the 4th time?
- What is significant about Samson not knowing the Lord had left him?
- What is revealed in Samson’s understanding as he articulated the source of his strength?
- What did sin do to his vocation / ministry / calling?
- Isn’t it interesting that doing things which seemed right in his own eyes led to losing his eyes?

- **Vs 22-27**

- When God’s people sin greatly what does it do to our witness in the world?

- **Vs 28-31**

- Note that a broken Nazirite vow could be restored by sacrifices and the shaving of your head to start over.
- Did Samson repent and acknowledge where his strength really came from?
  - Notice Samson used 3 names for God in his prayer...Yaweh (the great unspoken “I AM”)...Adonai (Master & father)...and Elohim (All powerful sovereign God)
- Now without sight he begins to press on “by faith”.
- What is the difference between suicide and giving one’s life in the pursuit of God’s call on your life?
- Can we have good motives mixed with impure motives and still be considered faithful?

## **Parallels in Samson's life to Jesus...but Jesus is "greater than"**

***For your continued study and contemplation....Caution as these are my observations only***

- Parents foretold of miraculous birth...Samson had human parents...Jesus the God Man.
- Both called to deliver their people...the people of Israel...Samson begins to oppose the Philistines but Jesus completely delivers us from Sin, Satan and Death.
- Their lives were to be wholly consecrated to God's calling their entire life.
- Their strength lied not in the physical appearance but in their remaining consecrated to God alone.
- Both betrothed ungodly wives...the church is ungodly prior to sanctification.
- Both never truly finished the marriage process...Samson had failures but Jesus maintained purity in his betrothal and will be married in the future.
- Both destroyed lions (Jesus destroyed Satan the roaming devouring lion)
  - Someday Jesus will return and take the honey (church) out of the world's dead carcass on Earth taking us to His father in Heaven.
- Both used/uses simple and unclean things to accomplish their victories (jawbone of donkey/broken men)
- Lived their lives toward the cause for which they were born...Samson in flawed ways and Jesus perfectly.
- Willingly died for their cause.
- Stood alone against God's enemies at the end of their lives...Samson between two pillars and Jesus on the cross between two thieves.
- Greater things came from their death than their life...Samson killed more Philistines and Jesus bought all things...sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost...3000 were saved the first day.
- Both held supernatural strength...but Jesus strength as God was his own and is stronger...as a man it was perfectly rooted in God His Father...Holy Spirit did mighty things throughout Jesus life and even more now as he reigns
  - See John 18:6; Matt 8:24-34

***Also consider parallels to John the Baptist...Give this a try yourself!***



## Conclusions & Applications

- Samson's faith wasn't mature but it was in God and endured to the end. We will see him in Heaven.
- If Samson can make it, so can we!

### APPLICATION:



What do we see?

Dating / Courtship



Married Couples



Children

Church and Work



Vocation



Running the Race



Vows

## HEBREWS VIEW OF SALVATION / SANCTIFICATION / DISCIPLESHIP

