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# **Samson's Final Hour**

**# 731-B**

**Series: God's Living Legends (Part 1)**

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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# Samson's Final Hour

The Scripture, through the life of a man named Samson, has been painting a picture for us of how strong our God really is. Following Samson is a little bit like riding a roller coaster or watching a bull in a china shop. When he is displaying his strength, nations topple like chessmen; but when he is acting in weakness, he plummets to the depths of disobedience. The fallout of his unfaithfulness touches the lives of thousands. In this lesson, the roller coaster is headed for the station, the end of the line. Before the ride ends, it will ascend to its greatest height and then fall again perhaps to its lowest depths, only to unexpectedly rise one last time before it grinds to a halt and becomes etched indelibly in the annals of eternity. You get tired just reading about this guy's life. He never did anything half-way. So fasten your seat belts and climb aboard as the Samson Express makes its final run. The title of our lesson is: "Samson's Final Hour".

In our last lesson we watched our hero make his first major mistake. He married a Philistine woman. We viewed the consequences and the calamities that followed as he reaped the fruit of his choice. We saw how God used even his mistakes to defeat the enemy. We saw Samson tangle with a lion, concoct a ridiculous riddle and trap 300 foxes. Before we were out of breath, we called time out as our hero was hidden in a cave near Etam. His hands were still bloody from murdering those who had murdered his wife. You may remember that they had murdered his wife because he had destroyed their crops. You may remember that he had destroyed their crops because she had married his best friend. You may remember that she married his best friend because he had deserted her. You may remember that he deserted her because she had betrayed him. Of course, you remember that she betrayed him because he had refused to confide in her when he was entertaining the enemy. Got it? Okay. Here we see the domino effect of sin.

So we left Samson living in the cleft of the rock of Etam in

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Judges 15:8. It is there that we resume our reading now. Turn to Judges 15. We will begin reading in verse 9,

Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.

Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.

And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves.

And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock. (Judges 15:9-13)

So our Samsonic Scenario unfolds again with a surprise attack by the occupation forces of the Philistines on the bewildered Judahites who ask in amazement, "What have we done to deserve this? What are you after?" The invading army replied, "We have come for Samson. We owe him one." "No problem," the loyal Jews replied, "We will get him and gift-wrap him for you. Just lay down your arms; we deserve a break today." So the Hebrews sent a task force to arrest Sammy. You could almost hear the conversation, "How many shall we send to get this guy? We understand that he is alone. We need at least 10 men." One guy holds up his hand, "Did you hear what he did to that lion? Let's send 20 men." Another guy speaks up, "Did you hear the episode about the 300 foxes? Let's send 50 men." Another voice says, "Did you hear what he did to the Timnites to avenge the burning of his wife? Maybe we better send 100."

We don't know how long the conversation went on, and we don't really know that this conversation did go on; but we do know that verse 11 says that our not-too-confident entourage arrives at Etam and by now it had swelled to 3,000 men. Still they began by reasoning with Sam. So Samson, hardly in the driver's seat says, "Let's make a deal. As long as you won't kill

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me, I will go peacefully.” They agreed to that. They agreed to tie him up with double-strength rope and deliver him bound into the enemy’s hand. So God moved Samson to agree and for the third time, but not the last, Samson is betrayed by those he trusted. First, his own wife sold his secrets. His best friend then made off with his wife. Now his own people hand him over to their enemies to save themselves. But God has thus far delivered him each time.

So the prisoner exchange takes place at Lehi. Then we read,

And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi. (Judges 15:14-17)

So much for Round 4. Our champion is still undefeated. When God’s Spirit came upon Samson, the rugged rope melted like wax and Sam was free. But God’s goal, you remember, when confronting the enemy, is more than to free us from bondage. He always wants the enemy to know that they have been tangling with the God of Israel. So Samson takes what he had at hand, the jawbone of a dead donkey, and he proceeds, in God’s strength, to slay 1,000 men. Sammy makes a verbal tribute to the victory, tosses away his secret weapon and renames the place in honor of what God had just done. Samson’s Donkeyshines end with the enemy defeated and our hero in the victory circle once again.

But just on the other side of victory, isn’t there always a test? Samson’s test comes immediately. Let’s continue in verse 18,

And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.

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And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.  
(Judges 15:18-20)

Big, strong Samson, killer of thousands, was brought to his knees by a need for the one thing he couldn't provide for himself, water. Have you ever noticed how many times in Scripture that God uses a need for water to get man's attention? How many times the children of Israel, just after a victory, ran out of water? Why do you think God often dries up the water supply so He can supply it supernaturally? First of all, it is because water is the one thing man can't provide for himself. Secondly, it is because without water, man cannot live. Thirdly, because water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in Scripture without whom we cannot live, and He can only be received as a gift from God. Neither can we manufacture His fruit, we can only receive the fruit of the Spirit as He in us produces living water. So Samson delights in his new-found fountain. He was a hero when faced with 1,000 men, but he was helpless when confronted with an unquenchable thirst. He had to cry to God for help. Chapter 16:1 starts out,

Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.  
(Judges 16:1-3)

So Samson's weakness for the wrong kind of woman surfaces once again. When he should have been gathering his people together for a praise meeting, he was heading to Gaza where he becomes involved with a harlot. His enemies encompass the city, expecting to trap him the next morning at sunrise, but somehow Samson gets wind of it. He leaves the city at midnight, using no less than the emergency exit. The city gates being shut for the night, the big boy just yanks them up, post, bar and all, hikes them up on his shoulder and carries them a mile up to the top of the hill overlooking the valley that leads to Hebron.

Now God did not condone what Samson was doing, make

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no mistake about it. But God chose to be merciful to Samson one more time. My friend, the lesson here is first of all, don't toy with immorality at all. It gives the enemy an occasion to encircle your life and lay a trap for you that will rob you of your strength. The second message is that when God does get your attention and saves you from the consequences of wrong behavior and gives you another chance, learn your lesson. Drive a stake in the ground and make a vow never again to toy with that which is unclean. Samson had twice been involved with the wrong woman for the wrong reason. Both times the results were near disaster. Both times God rescued him supernaturally. Our hope would be that Sam learned his lesson. The next time he might not be so fortunate, right? Well the next time is in the next verse. Let's continue,

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver. (Judges 16:4-5)

So history begins to repeat itself as our hard-headed hero takes on the third female in his life, a woman named Delilah. Now Delilah means languishing or delicate. She no doubt, once again, was a very beautiful lady. But beautiful women had been Samson's downfall, for he always focused on how they looked and never on their character. You single guys pay attention for just a second. You need to look for godliness first in a mate. Pay some attention to what is in the package, not just to how it is wrapped. Samson's female friends were pagan, unfaithful, self-centered, disloyal, immoral and deceitful. Otherwise, they were jewels. Now they may have been attractive from the world's point of view; but from God's perspective, they were a zero, not a ten. They cost Samson his testimony, his power and eventually his life.

Delilah must have been a real loser, for it was no time at all before her Philistine friends offered her a bribe to deceive her linebacker lover into giving up the secret of his enormous strength. They offered her \$750 apiece which by Texas mathematics comes to \$3,500 in order to betray him. Delilah responds, "You've got a deal." She proceeds to deceive her unsuspecting strong man.

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Now Delilah uncovers "Operation Weakness". She begins by taking the direct approach.

And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.

And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.  
(Judges 16:6-9)

So Samson concocts a story of being helpless when tied with 7 undried cords or vines. Delilah goes for it, ties her heavy-duty heartthrob up and calls in the Philistine firing squad to finish him off. But Sammy, always the practical joker, pops the twigs like melted wax and his would-be assassins put it in reverse and high tail it out of town. So much for Plan 1.

Now it is at this point that we have to think that our muscle man might be a little low in the brain department. It is bad enough that he got himself into the same fix again, with another woman trying to sell his secrets. At least by now you would think he could read the handwriting on the cave. You would think by now that he would see that his Delectable Delilah was as phony and dangerous as his Treacherous Timnite was. You would think he would pack what was no doubt his Samsonite bag and catch the first flight out of Sorek with a one-way ticket.

You see, my friends, the key to long-range staying power in the Christian life is finding where your blind spots are and doing whatever it takes to avoid making the same mistakes again. God is incredibly merciful; have you noticed that? He seems to give us chance after chance after chance. We are incredibly unteachable. We make the same mistakes again and again and again. Now don't be too hard on Samson, most of our lives are like a broken record, too, when it comes to dealing with our blind spots. Samson not only didn't head for the hills, he kept on playing games with the enemy.

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And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.

And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

(Judges 16:10-12)

So Sammy spins tale #2 and Delilah goes for it and our playful weight lifter walks away again. The enemy was right there to seize him, and again he refuses to head for home. You see, you can get so accustomed to the enemy and being in his presence, that it no longer enters your mind to flee. Now in verses 13-14 Sammy plays "Let's Get Samson" again. This time he teases Deadly Delilah by telling her that if they just wove his hair a certain way and stuck a pin in it, he would have as much power as a semi with a VW engine. Delilah goes for it again, the Philistines hide in wait; but Samson wins and walks away once again.

At least by now you would think Samson would have caught on. Instead, he *kept on toying with the enemy*. The first two games he played, he had them to bind his hands or feet. The third time, he had them bind his hair. He was getting painfully close to losing it all. By now he was too blinded to see it. So in verse 15, deceitful Delilah begins with the nagging routine that had finally worn him down in Timnath.

And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.

And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;

That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

(Judges 16:15-17)

Isn't the enemy slick? She had tried three times to trick her



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giant into giving up his secret, each time hiding the Philistine Secret Service under the couch to finish him off. Now she accuses *him* of not loving her. Now verse 16 is the key, because it shows the way Satan works once we give him the benefit of an inroad to our spirit through disobedience. He pounds away and pounds away and pounds away and pounds away at that weak spot until we fall. It says, *when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him so that his soul was vexed unto death*, he gave in and told her all that was in his heart. Samson's tombstone may well have been inscribed like this: *"There is no antidote for a nagging wife, here lies poor Samson, it cost him his life"*. Sam folded under the pressure that he was responsible for creating, and his Philistine Philly comes in for the kill.

And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath showed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

(Judges 16:18-21)

All of his life Samson had been playing with female fire and finally his life went up in smoke. He lost his power. He lost his vision. He lost his respect. He didn't even know it before it was too late. Now our once mighty hero lives in utter humiliation grinding grain down in the prison house with the other slaves, having lost all he had worth having at the hands of the world's first lady barber. Now God could have ended Samson's story right there. But if He had, we would have missed the most exciting comeback in Scriptural history.

Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

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Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.

(Judges 16:22-24)

Remember that this was a spiritual conflict between Satan and God. Satan plans a premature victory celebration. The Philistines worshipped the god Dagon. Dagon means "little fish". Apparently the idol had the head of a man and the tail of a fish, sort of a male mermaid. They knew it was a spiritual battle, even if Samson didn't. Their conclusion was that their god delivered Samson into their hands. When the people saw Samson reduced to weakness, they praised their god. My friend, the demonic host does have a victory celebration when a man or woman of spiritual power succumbs to the enemy's taunts and ends up in bondage or disgrace. Just as the angels in heaven rejoice when God's people score a spiritual touchdown, so do the demons from hell break forth into cheers when a believer fumbles. There really are two cheering squads in the game of life.

Most of you know the rest of the story. Their love feast for Dagon was a little early. Our God was not finished yet with Samson. To the enemy, Samson's failure was the ultimate defeat. To God, it was the perfect platform for his final blow.

And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

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And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

(Judges 16:25-31)

So Samson's greatest victory came in Samson's final hour. While his enemies laughed at him, mocked him and used him for entertainment, they were congregating beneath the canopy where God was preparing to vindicate His holy name. My friend, I don't know about you, but when I get to heaven, I'm going to look this guy up. I want to sit down beside him and ask what it was like to kill a lion with his bare hands, then to come back and feast on honey from the body of that lion. I want to hear him tell me about the time he tied 300 foxes' tails, two at a time, and wiped out the enemy's vineyards and fields. I'm going to listen again as he tells about slaying 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey and how he cried for water, and God sent streams in the desert. I'll say, "Play it again, Sam," when he tells how he hoisted the city gates on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the mountain.

I want to hear his side of the story of how Delilah tricked him. I want to ask him what it was like in prison, what it was like to be blind. I want to ask how it felt to be blind in the house of Dagon as that huge mob made fun of him and gave the glory to their pagan god. Then I want to hear from him what caused him to pray that final prayer and what went through his mind as he laid his hands on those pillars, knowing that his death would be an even greater blow to his enemy than his life was. I plan to get some time with Samson when I get to heaven. I want to hear it all from him, don't you?

But you know what? I believe that after Sam gets through sharing a few war stories, he is going to turn to us and say, "I wish I could go back to earth and preach one more sermon. I've

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got a final message I would like to preach on real strength." As we settle back to listen, I believe the big boy will share something like this:

"Everybody knows the account of my experiences," Samson begins, "but they are not the real message of my life. They are but signposts that point to the real story of Samson and what I wish I could say to the world." "What would that be, Sam?" we ask, "What would your message be?" You could almost see tears roll down that rugged old face as he answers, "I would like to leave the world with three statements about God's kind of life and God's kind of strength."

"First of all, pay attention to your weaknesses. All through my experiences in Timnath, God was trying to get my attention, to show me what He looked for in a mate; but I wouldn't listen. I didn't have God's perspective of love and marriage. Not everyone has the same problem, but everyone has problems. If they get help and declare war on those blind spots, the enemy loses his strongholds and the holes in your armor are repaired and he has no easy access to the back door of your soul. Only you know what your weakness is, but don't ignore it as I did mine. I just kept repeating the same mistakes again and again and again. As you know, my mistakes affected a lot of innocent people besides myself. So do yours. Don't let a rash of weakness turn into a malignant disease because you failed to let the Great Physician operate on you. That is the first thing I would like to say with my life."

"The second message of my life is, don't toy with the enemy or you are liable to forget who the enemy is and how deadly his venom can be. I married an unbeliever and entered into a game with her friends. Before it was over, a whole nation was bathed in blood. Sure, God used it, but I didn't learn my lesson. Then I went on to that prostitute in Gaza and it nearly cost me my life and my reputation. Then I developed a relationship with of all people, Delilah. Even after I realized that she was out to destroy me, I hung around and pretended that I could tease her and lead her Philistine friends along and still not get burned. You'd think I would have learned. Almost every Christian has an area in his life or her life where they just toy with sin to see how far they can go before they lose their strength. The trouble is that by the time you recognize it, you've already lost it. I would say to all God's children, don't toy with sin. Don't tease the enemy and think

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that at the last minute you can pull up stakes and head home. The last minute comes, and you never know it until it is too late.”

By now this huge hulk of a man is weeping unashamedly.

“The last message I would like to send God’s people is this, I really never experienced real life or real strength until I was willing to die. Most of us really don’t understand what it means to die. You see, a dead man has no rights. He cannot defend his reputation. For all practical purposes, he does not exist. The world is scrambling to claim what would be his, were he alive. God is looking for dead men. Jesus said he was looking for men who would die daily. Not sleep, die. He was looking for men and women who would be willing to be misunderstood, humiliated, blinded to the taunts of a laughing world, knowing that even as the enemy uses their weakness for entertainment, they are being drawn into the arena of life where soon the roof will cave in and the gods of this world will be helpless to help them.

Jesus was our example as He laid aside His robes of royalty to be scorned by the mob, mocked and ridiculed as they said, ‘He saved others, but Himself He could not save.’ Ah, but did He, too, not find His victory in death? Did not His death fulfill the very purpose His life was to proclaim? Did not He say to us, ‘If you save your life, you will lose it. Die to your own needs. Die to your own desires. Lose your life for My sake and you will find it.’ That is dying, but that is living. This means beginning every day by burying our reputation, our ambition, our claims to what we want and what we want of life and just allowing Him to resurrect His life in us one day at a time.”

“It could mean,” Samson adds quietly as his voice drops, “what it meant for me. Would you be willing to *really* die, if need be, for the One who died for you? If the heat of the battle intensifies, and well it may, and the fires preceding Armageddon begin to flare across the world, and it comes down to dying for your faith, would you be a Samson then? It is marvelous to live for Jesus; but as the Philistines move again against God’s army, only those who are willing to die have really learned to live.” With that the gentle old giant gives us a bear hug and softly adds, “That is what I wish I could say with my life.”

As he walks away, we respond, “You have, Samson, you have.”

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POOR OLD SAMSON

Where's poor old Samson?  
Betrayed, confused and shorn,  
His once proud life a shambles  
His pride now wrecked and torn.

No more feats of greatness  
With which to awe the crowd,  
No more riddles, no more games,  
No dares to cry aloud.

There's poor old Samson!  
"He's grinding at the mill!"  
He cannot even see his foes  
Yet they must lead him still.

(Today's the day he'll stagger  
To Dagon's temple roar!)  
As all his enemies deride  
And taunt him o'er and o'er.

They cry, "Hail, mighty Samson!"  
Oh, where is all his power?  
He who tore a lion apart  
In weakness, watch him cower!

Here comes your strong man now  
Through us, he gained his fame.  
Now glory's due to "Dagon"  
And praise is due his name!

There's Samson! But a shadow  
Of the man so widely known.  
See how the pillars hold him up,  
Look how his hair has grown.

What fun! Make sport of Samson  
Make light of what he's been.  
Then suddenly sheer panic strikes  
The roof is caving in.

There's bedlam here, there's terror!  
Call Dagon; where is he?  
Could all 3,000 perish?  
Could such destruction be?

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There's poor old Samson now  
Devoid of life or breath.  
Tho' many perished thru his life  
Yet more he slew in death.

Mourn not for poor old Samson  
Don't weep because he's gone,  
For he's a Living Legend now  
His story will go on.

His message e're will linger  
For man, new hope to give,  
That only when you learn to die  
Do you begin to live.

### For Focus and Application

1- Why does God often withhold water in Scripture? What does He use in your life to get your attention? What does it and water have in common?

2- Why do you think Samson made the same mistake over and over again? What two basic Scriptural principles do you think he violated that caused it to happen? Do you think he misread God's grace? How do we do the same thing?

3- Samson seemed to enjoy teasing the enemy and then using the power of God. Why is this so dangerous? How do Christians in our day do the same thing? What eventually happens? What does God often do?

4- Samson ended up in bondage, blind and helpless. How does this portray what happens to us spiritually when we toy with the enemy long enough? To whom did the people give the glory? What does the unbelieving world do when a Christian falls into bondage?

5- Samson's greatest victory came in death. What other Bible characters shared this experience?

6- What does "taking up our cross daily" mean to you? How can a Christian "die daily"? Spiritually dying is a prerequisite to real life. Can you explain to a friend how to do that? Have you ever experienced it?

7- Three key lessons from Samson's life beckon to us. Personalize them and apply them to your own life.

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- a- Pay attention to your weaknesses. Everyone has them. Had Samson dealt with his early on, his whole life story would have been one of going from strength to strength. So would yours and mine. The lie Satan sells us is that *if there are no immediate consequences, there will be no ultimate consequences.* It is a lie, indeed. Have you ever made a list of your weaknesses and asked someone to pray with you and for you and hold you accountable to deal with them? It is the first great step to spiritual growth.
- b- Don't toy with the enemy. Most of us enjoy playing games with Satan, seeing how far we can go without losing control. What we don't realize is that the minute we see how far we can go, we have lost control. Stop and look at your life and try to see the areas in which you are toying with Satan, letting him lead you to the edge of the cliff, assuring you *you'll never fall off.* Begin to meditate on verses that will cause you to flee from him immediately.
- c- You don't really live until you learn to die. What is keeping you from giving up everything and dying to yourself? Is there one person or one habit or one sin you simply won't give up? Why not get alone with God and give it all to Him. Tell Him you're ready to die so you can begin to live. Then hold on. He will take you at your word, and life will really begin.

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