

SERMON NOTES:



Nov 9, 2025

**SAMSON
JUDGES 13-16**

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1. The Setting — The Cycle of Judges

- Israel's pattern: sin → oppression → repentance → deliverance (Judges 2:11–19).
- Samson: the final judge, but also the most flawed.
- Philistine domination came not by war, but by trade, dependence, and compromise.
- Israel forgot their identity as God's holy people.

2. The Nazarite Vow — Set Apart for God (Numbers 6:1–8)

- No touching dead bodies.
- No wine or anything from the vine.
- No cutting of hair — symbol of dependence on God's strength.
- Purpose: to live separated from the common, devoted to the Lord (Numbers 6:7–8).

3. Samson's Story in Fast Forward

- Miraculous birth announced by an angel (Judges 13).
- Philistine wife chosen for selfish reasons ("right in my eyes").
- Lion encounter & honey — first vow broken.
- Wedding feast — possible second vow broken.
- Foxes and fire — revenge leading to tragedy.
- Cave of Etam — Samson hides and (possibly for the first time) seeks God's wisdom (Song of Solomon 2:14–15 connection).
- Jawbone victory — God's Spirit empowers Samson again (Judges 15:14–19).
- Delilah's betrayal — Samson's fall, Spirit departs, eyes gouged out (Judges 16:19–21).
- Final act — Samson calls on God one last time, dying in victory and defeat (Judges 16:28–30).

4. The Spiritual Lessons

a. Compromise always weakens calling

- Like Israel, Samson forgot who he was, whose he was, and where his help came from.

b. A Nazarite Life Today

- Christians are called to be “set apart” (Romans 6:17–18; Colossians 3:3).
- Avoid touching “dead things” — the old life of sin (Romans 6:12).
- Don’t seek fulfillment from the world’s sources (Ephesians 5:18).
- Depend fully on the Spirit of God.

c. Outward Signs of an Inward Faith

- Samson’s long hair symbolized dependence on God’s strength, not his own.
- We show our set-apartness not through appearance, but through Spirit-filled living.

d. Human Strength vs. God’s Grace

- Samson was a prototype messiah — a shadow pointing to Christ.
- Contrast:
 - Samson’s strength hid weakness; Christ’s humility hid infinite power.
 - Samson’s death brought revenge; Christ’s death brought redemption.
 - Samson lost sight of God; Christ never did (Philippians 2:5–11; John 10:18).

e. Only Grace Makes Us Holy

- God calls us to be set apart — but not by self-effort.
- True holiness flows from grace and dependence on Jesus (2 Corinthians 12:9).

5. A Hero’s Legacy

- Samson was broken and flawed — yet still remembered in the “Hall of Faith” (Hebrews 11:32).
- Even in failure, he sought God’s strength.
- The call for men (and women):
 - Don’t try to be the hero.
 - Teach your children to look to the true Hero — Jesus.
 - Real strength is found in surrender.

6. Key Takeaway

“If you want to learn to be a real man (or woman) of God
— you must first learn to be God’s person.”

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
(2 Corinthians 12:9)