

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

Sunday, August 20, 2017  
Pastor Don Denyes

## Intro to Judges 13-16

It can be easy for us to think of Samson as a mixed bag. There were clear times where the LORD was working in and through him to accomplish great things. Then there are other times where he clearly disobeys what God commanded. The disobedience finally reached a fever pitch when the Spirit of the LORD finally departed from Samson and he was no longer able to work his way out of trouble as he had in the past (Judges 16:20).

Such is the case with many of us. We may have a genuine desire to follow the LORD, but there are other enticing things that somehow get in the way. For some, it may be a serious active sin issue (sin of commission). For others, it may be more in the way of distractions from doing what we know to be the will of God (sin of omission). In either case, our lives are not always clearly one way or the other. Sometimes we have the right heart and attitude and other times we simply don't. Real wisdom is knowing the difference between the two times and being committed to God above everything else. So, the story of Samson ought to serve as both a warning and a witness. A warning in the sense that anyone can fall—no matter how religious. A witness in that the grace of God is able to cover all of our sin and restore us to Himself.

## Context

The story of Samson comes at the end of a cyclical pattern in the book of Judges. The pattern is essentially as follows: the people of Israel sin; God brings judgment on the people for their sin; the people cry out in repentance; God raises up a judge who will save them; God orchestrates deliverance for the people; then inevitably after some time passes, they sin and rebel against God again. Samson is actually the last of the six judges who follow this pattern: Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, and Jephthah are also raised up as judges over Israel during this time.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“How Did He Get on the List?”

Read Judges 16:15-31

Samson

Judges 13

- Faith Ignited 13
  - Nazirite Vow Num. 6
    - No fruit of the vine
    - No cutting the hair
    - No touching the dead
- Faith Ignored 13-16
- Faith Restored 16

Lessons

- Warning: You too can fall
- Witness: You can be restored

## Discuss

- 1) Using an example from your own life or someone you've known, what does it look like to be indifferent toward God? What kinds of things does a person in that condition think about or say or do?
- 2) The story of Samson serves as a warning. Anyone, no matter their upbringing or religious habits, can fall into sin and fail to live up to God's calling on their life. What do we need to do to persevere in living the life God has called us to?
- 3) Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. How does that passage give us hope in light of Samson's story?
- 4) God used Samson's death to deliver Israel, even though Samson's life and even his final prayer were less than exemplary. What does that say about God's character and the people He chooses to use to accomplish His purposes?
- 5) Pastor Don noted how sin slowly anesthetizes a person. In other words, sin often numbs us to its effects until it destroys us. How can we be more vigilant in killing sin in our lives?