

**39<sup>th</sup> St. Church of Christ Lectureship 2014**  
**Do You Know Samson?**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show you who Samson was; and how his life was filled with heartache and violence.

- Intro:
1. Samson is unique from other judges as his actions are often violent and his relationships with women were questionable.
  2. When we mention Samson, what usually comes to mind?
    - a. Deliah
    - b. Pulling down a building on the Philistines, lighting the tails of 300 foxes on fire (Samson wasn't without his own strength – 300 foxes example, he'd have to light them in pairs 150 times)
  3. Samson's story...is to me, a sad one.

I. Who is Samson?

- A. A man whom God would work through.
  1. God had a purpose for Samson's actions (**Judges 13:1,3-5**)
  2. Even the woman who Samson first desired was going to play a role (**Judges 14:3-4**).
- B. A man who had the spirit of the Lord acting in his life (**Judges 13:25**).
  1. Why did Samson have the spirit of the Lord move upon him? Because the Lord was going to work through him.
  2. One thing is clear concerning the Lord, He was active in the life of Samson
    1. Judges 13:25 [first moving of the spirit]
    2. Judges 14:4 [the Lord's plan mentioned]
    3. Judges 14:6 [spirit gives him strength]
    4. Judges 14:19 [strength for a fight]
    5. Judges 15:14 [the spirit gave him strength]
    6. Judges 15:8-9 [the Lord gives him a drink in a miraculous way]
    7. Judges 16:28 [Lord gives him strength]

II. Life of Samson

- A. He had several relationships
  1. His first wife (**Judges 14:2**)
  2. The harlot (Judges 16:1)
  3. Delilah (**Judges 16:4**)
- B. A Nazarite that had difficulty keeping his vows (**Judges 13:3-5**).
  1. He could not have killed so many without touching dead bodies, and here his hair was cut and another vow was broken (**Judges 16:19a**).
- C. **He had a lot of heartache and violence in his life.**
  1. His wife - she didn't trust in him thus she didn't tell him about what was going on (**Judges 14:15**)
    - a. Heartache followed by violence, followed by heartache again (**Judges 14:18,19-20**)

2. His visitation of his former wife - His wife was given away after a presumed hatred of her - Heartache (**Judges 15:1-2**); Violence - (**Judges 15:3-5**); Heartache (**Judges 15:6**); Violence again (**Judges 15:7-8**).
3. More Violence (Judges 15:9-16) – the jawbone killings
4. No real love here (**Judges 16:1**); more violence (**Judges 16:2-3**)
5. Heartache (love can blind us – **Judges 16:4**); Heartache on the horizon (**Judges 16:5-6**) - **v6 – she wanted to harm him; Samson’s strength was his life insurance - what if your spouse started asking A LOT of questions about your life insurance?**  
Heartache - Judges 16:7-14 – Delilah harassed him repeatedly;  
Heartache – **Judges 16:15-19**; Violence – **Judges 16:20-21;26-30**

### III. Lessons we can learn from Samson

- A. The Lord was his strength! (**Judges 15:14**)
  1. On several occasions we find where it was clearly the Lord’s strength “the spirit of the Lord came upon him”.
  2. We are at our strongest when the Lord is with us, regardless how strong we may think we are alone. (**Ps 18:2**)
- B. Who you choose as your mate or your “date” is very important.
  1. The first woman did not trust Samson but betrayed him (**Judges 14:17**)
  2. Choosing the a unfaithful spouse can and often does cause great harm to those who are faithful. (Pro 31:12 “*she will do him good and not evil*”) Delilah was the first person to torment him.

### Application & Conclusion:

1. The Lord will always accomplish His will (**Isa 55:11; Ezk 12:28**)
2. Some desire for the Lord to work in their life in a miraculous sense. **If you want the Lord to “work” in your life, there is a way!**

The Holy Spirit dwells within the Christian through the word thus we must Take His Word and – “**Read it, Obey it, & faithfully apply it!**”

By doing these things we can know what God requires of us – and as result of obedience have heaven as our eternal home.