When Strong Men Are Weak

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THREE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF SAMSON

1. God is always looking for a MAN He can USE.

Ezekiel 22:30 "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none."

Samson's Story: Judges 13:1-5, 24-25 Samson's birth was Divinely foretold, miraculously performed, and uniquely appointed for God's purposes.

MY Story: God created me for His purposes! I have a Divine destiny. I am alive today because of Him.

Proverbs 16:4: "The Lord has made everything for His own purpose..."

Colossians' 1:16 (The Message Bible) "For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible... everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."

Acts 17:28 "It is in Him that we live and move and keep on living."

Ephesians 1:4 "Long before He laid down earth's foundations, He had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of His love, to be made whole and holy by His love."

2. Man is always looking for a <u>PURPOSE</u> he can <u>FULFILL</u>.

If you don't find God's purpose for your life, you'll search for it in the wrong places.

Samson's Story: Samson was an incredibly strong man with a dangerously weak will.

Three things that made the strong man weak:

- Lust: I want it! "...get her for me." Judges 14:1-2
- Anger: I deserve it! "Burning with anger..." Judges 14:19
- Pride: I can do it! "Then Samson said, 'With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men." Judges 15:16

A strong man becomes weak when he is EMOTION-DRIVEN rather than Spirit-led.

MY Story: I will not find the purpose of my life in the flesh. I will be led by the Holy Spirit and find my purpose in life in God.

2 Timothy 2:19-22 "...If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work..."

1 John 2:14 "...I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

Galatians 5:16-17 "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature."

3. <u>PURPOSE</u> is always fulfilled when man <u>SUBMITS</u> to God.

Samson's Story: Judges 15:18-20 Three things that made the weak man strong:

- Desire for God. "...he cried out to the Lord..." v. 18
- Glory to God. "You have given your servant this great victory." v. 18
- Humility before God. "So the spring was called En Hakkore (caller's spring)." v. 19. "Samson judged Israel for 20 years." v. 20

If you let your needs drive you to God, God will meet your deepest needs.

MY Story: I will hunger for God, acknowledge God, and humble myself before God.

Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Romans 6:13 "Give yourselves completely to God since you've been given new life. Use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God."

A weak man becomes strong when he finds and fulfills God's purpose for his life.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:16 "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."



