

The Defeat of Samson *or* The Rebuilding of God's Temple

Introduction: God's plan was for a house that was holy, set apart, and that was consecrated for people to give worship, prayer, and reverence only to Him.

Matthew 21:13

And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

- How is the temple made a den of thieves? When we in the face of the commandments, people have made God's house something that it was not supposed to be. People take instead of give. People disobey instead of obey God's directions.

Exodus 20:3-5

Have no other gods before the Lord; Make no image and do not worship the image.

Exodus 20:14-15

Do not commit adultery and do not steal.

- What is adultery? It is having any type of sexual relations outside the God-ordain of a heterosexual marriage covenant (a union between a man and a woman). When we have sexual relations outside of a marriage covenant, we steal or take intimacy that is not ours to own.
- God has clear views of immorality.

Romans 1:19-24

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

- The images in our mind (pornography) can also get us in trouble. (See above Exodus 20:4; Romans 1:21).
- This false-intimacy creates a terrible grip or strong-hold.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- Our thought life is also important.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Illustration: Let us now look at Samson. His supernatural strength came from his consecrated and holy life (Judges 13:7: Judges 14:6).

- I. The (false) Temple of an Idol.
 - a. Judges 16:1-4 The promiscuous and presumptuous lifestyle of Samson (see Judges chapters 13-16).
 - b. Judges 16:5-21 Samson was bound in his sin. He was literally “yoked, tied, and bound” to the person that he was in relationship with...the infamous Delilah. He should have walked away from this selfish lady. These acts are called sin (see also 1 Corinthians 5; Romans 6:23).

1 Corinthians 6:15-17

Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the -members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

- The adulteress Delilah was a man-eater. (See also Proverbs chapter 7 and Proverbs 9:13-18).

Proverbs 6:23-26

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

- II. The Destruction of the Ungodly Temple

- What options did Samson have to remove himself from this situation? (See verses 1 Corinthians 7:1-17).

Matthew 19:9 (See verses 1-9).

And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

- a. Judges 16:22-31 The brief restoration and final end of Samson. Samson brought down the house of idolatry.

III. The Rebuilding and Restoration of the Temple

- a. What is the Temple of the Lord?

1 Corinthians 6:18-19

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

- Samson made the Hall of Fame of faith!

Hebrews 11:32, 39

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:...And these all, having obtained a good report through faith,

- b. Principles of Rebuilding

1. See Ezra chapter 3- Set up an altar.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9-13

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- There is also no condemnation or shame.

John 3:17

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. See Ezra chapter 4- Go against the grain of society. Persevere through opposition.

Psalm 19:9-14

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

3. See Ezra chapter 5- Obey God's Word. Lay the foundation.

Romans 6:17-19

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

4. See Ezra chapter 6- Receive the support of others. Accountability. Mentors can provide assistance and resources (Hebrews 10:25; James 5:19-20).

➤ There is hope for the restoration of Delilah, as well (see John 8:1-11; John 4:15-42).

In Conclusion: Let us honor God with our lives. We are God's temple! The Holy Spirit can empower us to live lives that honor the Lord (Ephesians 4:1-3; Isaiah 61:1-7).

Romans 8:9-13

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.