



Great Starts and Difficult Endings – Part 2 Judges 14

Judges 14:1-3 (HCSB)

Samson went down to Timnah and saw a young Philistine woman there. He went back and told his father and his mother: "I have seen a young Philistine woman in Timnah. Now get her for me as a wife." But his father and mother said to him, "Can't you find a young woman among your relatives or among any of our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines for a wife?" But Samson told his father, "Get her for me, because I want her."

Samson: The Difficult Ending

I. He lived a life of Social Irresponsibility

- He picked the wrong friends

Proverbs 13:20 (HCSB)

The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

- He had a hot temper

Judges 14:19 (NIV)

He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father's house.

Proverbs 29:22 (NIV)

An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

Proverbs 22:24-25 (NIV)

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Judges 15:3, 7-8 (NIV)

Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; ...Since you've acted like this, I won't stop until I get my revenge on you. He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them."

II. He lived a life of Sexual Indiscretion

Judges 16:1 (HCSB)

Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute and went to bed with her.

Judges 16:4 (HCSB)

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman named Delilah...

Proverbs 6: 27-32 (NIV)

Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.... A man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.

“Watch your thoughts, they become words; watch your words, they become actions; watch your actions, they become habits; watch your habits, they become character; watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.” – Frank Outlaw

III. He lived a life of Spiritual Indifference

- To His Parents

Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

- To His Promise
- To His Priorities

Judges 15:18 (NIV)

Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the LORD, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"

Judges 16: 20 (HCSB)

Then she cried, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" When he awoke from his sleep, he said, "I will escape as I did before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

- To His Purpose

Judges 16:28 (NIV)

Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."

Hebrews 11:32-33 (HCSB)

“And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions...”