

# Samson and Humility

(Judges 16:23-31)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

Series Title: *Kind of a “BIG” Deal*

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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## Something to think about:

“Phillip Brooks made an apt comment when he said, ‘The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is.’”<sup>1</sup>

We come to the end of our series today on Samson. Samson’s pride throughout the course of his life as a Judge over Israel, finally got the best of him. His strength became his weakness, and pride became his downfall. The love of his life, Delilah, would be his demise, and in a moment of weakness Samson would be betrayed into the hands of his enemies: The Philistines. While he slept in Delilah’s lap, his hair would be shorn off like a sheep’s wool. He would away to a surprise attack only to find out that the LORD had left him, and so had his strength.

Now, with his eyes gouged out and imprisoned by the Philistines as their slave, Samson was brought to his lowest point ever. But, as we remember from last week’s message, Samson’s hair began to grow back (16:22).

Today, we come to the last moments of Samson’s life, and the redemption of God on Samson’s life as he would finally become victorious over the enemies of God: The Philistines. Because of Samson’s humiliation, he would be humbled enough to be used of God. Let’s take a look...

**Turn in your Bible to: *Judges 16:23-31***

What we learn in these few verses is, Samson had to learn the hard way that...

**Key Point: “Humility leads to victory.”**

How does this play out in Samson’s final hours? Let’s take a closer look:

- **Pride leads us to believe we’re victorious, when, instead, we’re on the verge of defeat.**

*Judges 16:23-24 (NLT),* <sup>23</sup> The Philistine rulers held a great festival, offering sacrifices and praising their god, Dagon. They said, “Our god has given us victory over our enemy Samson!” <sup>24</sup> When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, “Our god has delivered our enemy to us! The one who killed so many of us is now in our power!”

- **Being humbled drives us to repentance and reliance on God.**

*Judges 16:28 (NLT),* Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “Sovereign LORD, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes.

- **Humility brings greater action and victory that pride ever can.**

*Judges 16:30 (NLT),* [Samson] prayed, “Let me die with the Philistines.” And the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.

## Something to take home:

Samson would have to be humbled in order to have the strength to overcome his enemies, and the Philistines would die in their pride believing they were victorious over Samson. Sometimes our enemies may seem to have bested us, but if we are humble, and focused on Christ, no enemy can ever truly overcome us. God is our refuge and strength; He is an ever-present help in times of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.<sup>2</sup>

Humility requires repentance and complete reliance on God. It requires complete submission to Christ and waiting upon the Lord to renew our strength. The truth is, humility brings greater action and victory than any amount of human strength or fame ever could. Humility is the currency of God’s kingdom. Humility is the only way anyone can enter heaven.

**Key Point: “Humility leads to victory.”**

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<sup>1</sup> E. Skougland, *Burning Out for God*, p. 11.

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 46:1-3.

NOTES:

Lined area for notes.



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"Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:

**Know** Christ intimately,

**Grow** in Christ continually, and,

**Go** for Christ daily;

Through:

Core Families,

Community Partnerships, and

Global Connections."

*Love is not...*

# BOASTFUL or PROUD

"THE STORY OF SAMSON"

**LESSON 4:**

"SAMSON AND HUMILITY"

(Judges 16:23-31)

# Samson and Humility

(Judges 16:23-31)

Series Title: *Kind of a "BIG" Deal*

## KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How would you define the word "humility?"
- ⇒ Describe, in tangible terms, what humility looks like (give examples)?

**SCRIPTURE:** (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

*Judges 16:23-31 (NLT)*

<sup>23</sup> *The Philistine rulers held a great festival, offering sacrifices and praising their god, Dagon. They said, "Our god has given us victory over our enemy Samson!"*

<sup>24</sup> *When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy to us! The one who killed so many of us is now in our power!"*

<sup>25</sup> *Half drunk by now, the people demanded, "Bring out Samson so he can amuse us!" So he was brought from the prison to amuse them, and they had him stand between the pillars supporting the roof.*

<sup>26</sup> *Samson said to the young servant who was leading him by the hand, "Place my hands against the pillars that hold up the temple. I want to rest against them."<sup>27</sup> Now the temple was completely filled with people. All the Philistine rulers were there, and there were about 3,000 men and women on the roof who were watching as Samson amused them.*

<sup>28</sup> *Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "Sovereign LORD, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes."<sup>29</sup> Then Samson put his hands on the two center pillars that held up the temple. Pushing against them with both hands,<sup>30</sup> he prayed, "Let me die with the Philistines." And the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.*

<sup>31</sup> *Later his brothers and other relatives went down to get his body. They took him back home and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol, where his father, Manoah, was buried. Samson had judged Israel for twenty years.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Give a brief synopsis of what is going on in the text for today's study...

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2. While Samson is alone, blind, and defeated by the Philistines, the Philistines decide to throw a party. What happens at that party (vv. 23-25)? What is there reason for requesting Samson to be brought to the party? Who do the Philistines believe delivered Samson into their hands?

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3. Samson had to be led out by a servant because he was blind. As he stood between the pillars that held up the roof of their temple, who all was in attendance at the party (vv. 26-27)?

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4. In Judges 16:20, Samson didn't realize that the LORD (and his strength) had left him when he awoke. Now, more than likely several months later, Samson calls upon the LORD. However, this time Samson's attitude has changed. What does Samson request in his prayer, and how does he request it (v. 28)?

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5. Does God answer Samson's prayer? Does Samson's strength come back? Does the LORD return to him (vv. 29-30)?

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6. What is the last statement and testimony of Samson's life (v. 31)? What does Samson's story say about the heart of God toward the humble and repentant person?

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7. Why is humility so important to God? Why is pride so destructive?

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8. Does the world value humility, or does it promote fame, fortune, and success? How is living in humility a counter-cultural idea?

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9. How does Samson's story highlight God's willingness to extend grace and allow second chances?

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## SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **HUMILITY REQUIRES** repentance and complete reliance on God. It requires complete submission to Christ and waiting upon the Lord to renew our strength. The truth is, humility brings greater action and victory than any amount of human strength or fame ever could. Humility is the currency of God's kingdom. Humility is the only way anyone can enter heaven.

- ⇒ **TAKE TIME THIS WEEK** to do an act of service for someone everyday, even if no one notices.

- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Judges 16:28; Psalm 46:1-3; Philippians 2:3.*