

Week 7 - Physically Strong but Morally Weak

Ice Breaker Questions - Do you or someone you know have an interesting birth story?

Ladies this is a large amount to get through, so don't feel guilty about not answering it all, just some words to ponder, perhaps even after we have completed the whole study if you want to dig a little more!

1. Miracle Baby (13:1-25)

- Verse 6 - "Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome" - this is an interesting use of the word "very awesome," this isn't meant to be how we might hear it in our culture. We often hear people say that was awesome! Rather a quick study of different translations, and the root meaning, shows us the word is meant to be "to fear, afraid, in a sense of reverence." Strong's Concordance.
- Notice over and over in Judges Yahweh's sovereignty, take a minute to think upon that in your own journey with the Lord. Is it frightening to think that He's in control over all things, at all times? Or is it a comfort? For some at times perhaps it's both.
- Notice Israel isn't crying out for help, and yet in so many ways He is helping them. What would our lives be like if God only helped us when we cried out to Him, when we prayed, sought His wisdom etc. Likely we would be lacking comparatively to the riches He freely lavishes upon His dear children
- Have you, like Manoah wished you knew more about the situation than you did/do? Are we people that trust and rest in the Lord or pursue all the details? There are times when seeking is necessary, others when we are required to be content with limited details, trust and faith in the Lord is required to know the difference.
- The Lord answers Manoah's prayer and comes again, do we consider God answering prayer, do we take the time to praise Him, or just move on to the next request, yes bring all your petitions, but may we encourage each other to be a people quick to praise Him

2. Samson Gets Married (14:1-20)

- We might be tempted in chapter 14 to relate these occurrences of unhealthy marriage, a reckless Samson, murder of 30 men to show Samson's weakness, which it certainly does. Let's also look at the other side, what is it showing us about the Lord, does it display His power, deliverance, justice?

3. A Battered Wife (15:1-8)

- Samson is taking revenge, once again we could say he's acting impulsively. Let's not be too quick to judge Samson, but rather look at our lives, are we vengeful? When our kids do something that inconveniences us, do we want them to know how much that affects us and take it out on them. What about our spouses or coworkers, do we try to avoid or dismiss them to not have to deal with a difficult situation (avoiding can also be revenge). Or maybe something in the church, do we stir up strife or not talk to people that we think are lesser Christians?

4. Fighting the Philistines (15:9-20)

- We see Samson longing for a drink of water, where else in Scripture do we see God providing water to sustain His people. What does this show us about ourselves and our weakness? What does it explain to us about God and his mercy toward us?

5. Samson's Night in Gaza (16:1-3)

- Where the spirit of the Lord was previously with Samson in chapters 14-15, we now notice that Samson seems to be acting in his own sinful dependance, and we don't again notice Samson calling out to Yahwah till the close of chapter 16. Think of a time or season when you tried to do things in your own strength, likely it was disastrous. Why do we do this, is it simply because we're a fallen creation? Are there areas in our life that we're knowingly sinning, that we need to confess, seek accountability perhaps?

6. Samson & Delilah (16:4-31)

- Out of all the women that we're introduced to with Samson, Delilah is the only one that is named.
- What are we to see in all this tragic account? "Samson is a paradigm of Israel: one raised up out of nothing, richly gifted, who panders around with other loves and yet, apparently, always excepts to 'have' Yahweh." - Dale Ralph Davis