

SAMSON

Part 2 -- A Man of Sin

Introduction; Even heroes have 'feet of clay.'

A. This means they are human and fail.

1. We see this with sports stars, with politicians and even with religious leaders. These often do things that are wrong.
2. Sometimes their failings are those of most people. They make mistakes and sin but repent and try to do better.
3. Sometimes we find out they really abused their position and fame and power to do terrible things over and over.
4. When these things happen we sometimes get so disgusted that we trust no one. Others say they are just human and to forget it. Neither extreme is right.
5. When we sin we should face the consequences and the greater the sin, the greater the consequences. Also, we expect more of those in positions of power and trust. Their consequences should be greater.
6. When some do sin, this does not mean everyone like them sins. We should not ignore wrongdoing. And we should not accuse those who are innocent.

B. We looked at Samson last week.

1. We usually consider Samson to be a man of great sin. We think of Delilah and other sins in his life.
2. Yet we saw that Hebrews 11:32 called him a man of faith. He was a hero of faith who encourages us to not give up. We saw several things that made him a hero of faith.
3. He was chosen by God before birth to be a life-long Nazarite. When he grew up he accepted this. He did not rebel against the limitations of the vow. God has chosen to save all men through Jesus Christ. Yet many today do rebel against this.
4. Second, we saw that Samson trusted in God. He went to God several times in prayer when he needed help. He depended on God to save him, despite his great strength. Jehovah always answered his prayers. Do we trust God to help us in difficult times?
5. Third, Samson realized where his true strength lay. He did trust in God in prayer. When his hair grew back he did not automatically get his strength back. It was only when he prayed to God that he got it back.
6. He trusted more in God's strength than in his own. We need to learn this important lesson. We must trust in God so that when we are weak, we are strong —2 Cor 12:7-10.
7. Samson also accepted the consequences of his sin. He did not pray for God to save him from the Philistines but to let him die with them. He did not whine and cry about the consequences of his sin.

C. Yet Samson certainly had feet of clay.

1. He sinned as men do. He even sinned more than most men do. His blessings from God were great and his responsibilities were great.
2. His sins were great and the consequences were great. Yet we see the great grace of God in making him a hero of faith.
3. While we can learn from Samson's faith, we can also learn from his weakness. We can learn some things about sin from Samson.

D. Therefore we will consider, ‘**Samson, the man of Sin**’ today.

1. We will consider Samson’s sin.

A. Samson died a young man.

1. **Judges 1:1-5**; He was a Nazarite from his mother’s womb. He was called before birth to begin the deliverance of Judah from the Philistines. So he evidently began as a young man.
2. He was probably in his 20’s when he began to fight against the Philistines. He judged Israel 20 years —15:20 & 16:31. So he must have been in his 40’s when he died.
3. His sins are sexual sins. This is usually a sin of young people.

B. Samson seems to have had a weakness for Philistine women.

1. **Judges 14:1-4**; He was drawn to the Philistine women. We do not know why he did not like the women of his own people. It may be the Philistines were more worldly and exciting.
2. We saw, last week, some of the problems of marrying a Philistine woman and how God used it to allow Samson to fight the Philistines and kill a thousand of them and Israel not be blamed.
3. **Judges 16:1-3**; This is an example of Samson’s weakness for the Philistine women and also of his great strength. The gates of the city were important for protection. They would be strong and heavy. Yet Samson pulls them up and carries them off.

C. Samson’s is perhaps best known for his affair with Delilah.

1. **Judges 16:4-9**; Samson seems to love her. Yet she agrees to betray him for a great sum of money. Samson tries to appease her by making something up. She tries it and it does not work.
2. Two more times Samson makes something up to try to appease her —vs 10-14. We wonder why Samson is not suspicious. Yet he continues to stay with her.
3. **Verses 15-22**; Finally she tells her so he can have some peace. Once again she does what he says. His hair is cut off. He is captured. His eyes are put out and he becomes a grinder in prison.
4. **Verses 23-27**; We do not know how long Samson was in prison. It may have been a year or more for his hair to grow long again. At some point they have a great feast day and celebrate their victory over their great enemy.
5. **Verses 28-31**; Samson remembers Jehovah and turns to him. He accepts his fate and asks to die with the Philistines. He kills many Philistines and their leaders. This probably gives Israel a rest for a time.

D. We see then the feet of clay of this great Jewish hero.

II. Sin takes us farther than we want to go.

A. Sometimes we may start to sin intending to do just a little and quit.

1. Many want to ‘*sow their wild oats*’. They intend to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time and then quit.
2. Oftentimes they start and go further and further into sin. This happens with alcohol, drugs, gambling, immorality and many other things. Many become addicted to these things.
3. Once we take one step into sin, it is easy to take another. At first Samson just wanted a wife of the Philistines. This leads him to the harlots and then to Delilah.
4. Wanting a wife of the Philistines was wrong. However it was not as wrong as wanting the harlots. It does not seem that he married Delilah. He just lived with her. Sin took him further and further.

B. Scripture warns us to not start on the road to sin.

1. *2 Tim 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2. When Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph he ran out of the house —Gen 39:7-12. He fled from sin. Paul tells Timothy to do so also. They were young men like Samson who make the better choice in life. We should likewise make the better choice and stay away from sin and its temptations.
3. *1 Tim 6:7-10 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
4. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Many are led astray by this love. They may just want to be well off at first. But they want more and more and it becomes their god.
5. *Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

C. We must realize that things and people do have an influence on us.

1. The Philistine women led Samson deeper and deeper into sin. Again, drugs, alcohol, gambling, immorality and other sins can lead us deeper and deeper into sin too.
2. *1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."*
3. We must take heed to the people we associate with, the places we go and the things we do. We must stay away from evil of all kinds.
4. *1 Thess 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.*
5. *Matt 16:12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*
6. We must even beware of some religious teachers and their teaching. They do not teach the truth and if we continue to listen to them we might be persuaded by their smooth words —Rom 16:18.

D. We see then that sin can take us further than we want to go. It can also keep us longer than we want to stay.

III. Sin keeps us longer than we planned to stay.

A. When Samson first wanted the Philistine wife, this was all he wanted.

1. Yet this fascination with the Philistine women kept him longer and longer in the land of the godless Philistines.
2. He may have intended to just marry her and take her home. He may not have intended to get so involved with the Philistines.
3. Yet this led to the harlot, to Delilah and to prison. Judges 14, 15 and 16 covers about 20 years. We do not know all that Samson did in this time.
4. Sin is an addiction. It gets harder and harder to overcome over time. We should never start to follow its lusts.

B. Sin is pleasing for a time and must be resisted.

1. *Heb 11:24-27 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.*
2. Moses make a choice. He chose to suffer with God's people rather than enjoy the passing pleasure of sin for its season. He kept his eyes on what was real and that was God.
3. An old saying is, 'The road to hell is paved with good intentions.' Many intend to change their lives and do right and serve the Lord. Yet many wait until it is too late.
4. *Acts 24:24-25 And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he*

sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

C. Many will be lost because they stayed too long in sin.

1. *Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*
2. We take a chance when we willfully go into sin. It may be that we stay so long we can never return. Scripture warns that this is possible.
3. *2 Pet 2:20-22 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*
4. Many Christians will suffer in eternity because they went back into sin just a little and stayed. They will be in hell all eternity knowing they should not be.

D. Sin can keep us longer than we want to. It will also cost us more than we want to pay.

IV. Sin also costs us more than we want to pay.

A. Samson did not think of the cost of wanting a Philistine wife.

1. This led him to the harlots, to Delilah, to losing his hair and strength, to prison, to losing his eyesight, to working for the enemies of God's people, to being ridiculed and mocked and even to losing his life.
2. If he knew this he might have stayed in Judea. God did not make him with this weakness but did use it to help his people. He suffered for this weakness.
3. *1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

B. Sin can cost us our salvation in eternity.

1. *Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
2. *2 Cor 5:10-11 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*
3. We must all stand before God and be judged. We will answer for the choices we made. Even many Christians will hear, "Depart from me, you that practice iniquity" —Matt 7:23, 25:41.

C. Sin can also cost us in this life.

1. Many seem to get away with sin in this life. We sometimes wonder if it is worth serving God. Yet it is, even we lose everything in this world and gain eternity.
2. *Mat t16:26-27 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."*

3. There are many ways men suffer in this life because of their sins. The ones who become addicted to alcohol and drugs often lose their families, jobs, homes and even their lives. The same is true of gambling. Many lose their life savings and homes.
4. Immorality often has consequences. Many have unplanned children they must support and raise. Others get diseases that make life difficult or even short.

D. Sin costs a lot. We must count the cost and see it is not worth it.

Conclusion; We must beware of sin and its consequences.

- A. We are all in sin and lost —Rom 3:23.
 1. If we choose we can come out of it and be saved. God had made a way through His Son, Jesus Christ and His sacrifice —John 3:16.
 2. This is a choice we must make before it is too late.

- B. We must believe, repent and be baptized to be forgiven of our sins and be saved.
 1. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
 2. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
 3. Why not serve Jehovah today?