

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

July 1, 2018

It's Never Too Late

Then Samson called to the LORD and said, “O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.” . . . Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell. . . . So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life (Judges 16:28, 30, ESV).

Most people know only fragments about the Old Testament judge Samson—long hair, superhuman strength, seduced by Delilah—but there is so much more worth knowing.

Judges 13 introduces Samson through his parents, who were barren but were given a miracle child. An angel essentially announced to Samson’s parents, “You’re going to have a boy, and he’s going to be special. He’s going to belong to Me from the day he is born.” After years of infertility, Samson’s parents were fired up to worship God and do what He commanded. Samson was raised as a Nazarite, a person who took a strict vow to belong totally to God. Sadly—pathetically—Samson’s life did not belong to God; it belonged to Samson. He was a sensual person. Though he grew up under God’s blessing, his attention was drawn to pleasure like a moth to a sizzling bulb. It was only a matter of time before he wandered.

“Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines” (Judges 14:1). He was in the wrong place to scout for a wife. The Philistines were the archenemies of the nation of Israel, a deadly nuisance in the neighborhood. Samson was chosen by God and given supernatural strength to drive the Philistines out. Instead of using his abilities to do the job God assigned him, he used his unusual capacity to satisfy his sensual self.

Samson allowed himself to be controlled by his appetites. Like all sensual wanderers, Samson’s life was out of control. Judges 14-16 details the drama and violence of Samson’s life: his wedding, his fits of rage, his slaughters, his entrapment by the seductress Delilah.

Just as the father had to let go of the prodigal son (Luke 15)—not because he wanted to, but because he had to—so God has certain responses to our deliberate wandering. Some people ultimately have to eat pig food before they find out how bad it tastes. In His mercy, God the Father sometimes lets us wander so we discover the futility of life without Him. How sad that Samson, who was raised to live a life in and for God, lived so far from, yet so close to, the one thing that would have fully satisfied him. Eventually God released him to his desires, saying in effect, “Is your way better than Mine? You think you have to have that? Then go.”

Samson lost everything before he realized what really mattered. **“And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison” (Judges 16:21).** At this point in the story, it looks like it’s over for Samson.

Perhaps it seems that way in your life right now. Has the boulder of reality fallen on you? If you’re still breathing, there’s hope. It wasn’t too late for Samson, and it isn’t too late for you. Though Samson’s life had been reduced to grinding in darkness, **“the hair of his head began to grow again” (16:22).** The symbol of his calling began to return.

Blindness may have been a severe mercy for Samson. As a sensual wanderer, controlled by his eyes and appetites, he could no longer see. Perhaps being shackled at the mill was the

best thing that happened to Samson because his feet couldn't wander after sensuality. In His mercy, God put Samson on lockdown!

Do you recall how Samson's story ends? God strengthened him once more, and he toppled the pillars of the Philistine house, killing thousands (Judges 16:30). But that's not all. There's a jaw-dropping footnote about Samson's life. Hebrews 11:32 lists him as a man of faith. Samson's failures didn't disqualify him from God's family.

It wasn't too late for Samson, and it's not too late for you. You don't have to resign yourself to the way you are fearing you'll never be changed. You can be different—not by your own power but by the power of God released in you when you surrender to Him.

-- MacDonald via internet

Friends For More Than Life

You are My friends if you do whatsoever I command you.

John 15:14

Jesus developed a friendship relationship with disciples. Their friendship lasted because they stayed in touch, and were sensitive to one another's needs. I remember some of the friends I had in school, and at graduation exercises we told each other we would remain friends, staying in touch. Did you do that? How's that going for you? We call, write, and Facebook for a while, but then over time as interests change we slip away. If we were on Facebook with Jesus, would He de-friend us? We often sing the beautiful old hymn, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". I wonder, are we singing the truth? Let's keep that friendship fresh starting right now. Stay close to Him and He will to you. (James 4:8)

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Packets of tuna, spam, or salmon or pull tab cans ; Packets or

cans of coffee, prefer regular coffee ; Packets or containers of flavored cream for coffee (powder)

Birthday : Sherry Clark July 1

Reading : Acts 7: 54-8: 3 ; Acts 9: 22-31

NEXT WEEK : (July 8, 2018)

Song Leader : Tim

Scripture Reader : Jonathan

Table & Announcements : Bob

Prayer list :

Rosanne : Carpel tunnel Pain and pain from surgery

Pete & Hazel : Dealing with multiple issues, some age related

Hailey Wilhour: Hailey's cancer came back with a vengeance. She is now out of options for treatment and on top of that she is battling pneumonia.

Ron Bartanen : Issues with conflict of medications continue

Doris Bartanen : Critically low potassium complicated by diabetes and other issues. Losing mobility.

Delaney West : Surgery on hold as tumor is being observed

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Doris, Mary, Delores, Marg, Pete & Hazel,
Betty, Francis

Other members with ongoing issues :

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Hazel Rankin : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !