

ANCIENT HEROES

How to Squander the Chance of a Lifetime— The Story of Samson (Judges 13-16)

Dan Seitz—September 2, 2018

White Coat Ceremony Surprise

The Story of Samson in Four Acts: *Wisdom In Reverse*

Squandering the Chance of a Lifetime: Four Decisions

1. Decide that what is “right in your eyes” is right in _____.

ESV **Judges 13:5** for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

NIV **Judges 14:1** Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. ² When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife." ³ His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me."

ESV **Judges 14:6** Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat.

ESV **Judges 14:3** But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."

ESV **Judges 14:7** Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she was right in Samson's eyes.

ESV **Proverbs 14:12** There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

*This life's dim window of the soul
Distorts the heavens from pole to pole,
And leads you to believe a lie
When you see with, not through, the eye.*

--William Blake

2. Decide to make your style of life _____ from the world.

ESV **Judges 14:10** His father went down to the woman, and Samson prepared a feast [מִשְׁתֶּה] pronounced, "Mishteh"] there, for so the young men used to do.

מִשְׁתֶּה: 1. *feast, banquet* (occasion for drinking, drinking-bout),

ESV **Judges 14:12** And Samson said to them, Let me now put a riddle to you. If you can tell me what it is, within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes,

ESV **Judges 14:15** On the fourth day they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband to tell us what the riddle is, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us here to impoverish us?"

3. Decide to make an idol of _____ and _____ enchantment.

ESV **Judges 16:6** So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you."

ESV **Judges 16:15** And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies." ¹⁶ And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. ¹⁷ And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man." ¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. ¹⁹ She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. ²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. ²¹ 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.

ESV **Judges 16:4** After this he loved [אָהַב] pronounced, "A-have"] a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

אָהַב 1. human love to human object; of man's love to woman; wife

ESV **Judges 15:1** After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat.

4. Decide that your faithless past _____ you for a fresh start and a faithful future.

ESV **Judges 16:28** 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." ²⁹ And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. ³⁰ And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.