

## Judges 15

**But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in.**

After a while during wheat harvest. This may have been around the season of the Feast of Pentecost (don't quote me), he goes back to receive his bride. God gets betrothed to Israel on this date. His plan was to bring his wife into the chamber.....symbolic of the rapture (Joel 2:16, Psalm 19:5, Isaiah 26:19-21). But she's already been given to the enemy.

**<sup>2</sup> And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: is not her younger sister fairer than she? Take her, I pray thee, instead of her. <sup>3</sup> And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.**

Father gave her to his so-called friend and offers her sister instead. Nice try, but that's not what he asked for and that wasn't the agreement. Patiently wait for the return of the deliverer and don't opt to hook up with the enemy. His wife is taken away and so he is about to use this as a reason to dish out more trouble on his enemies.

**<sup>4</sup> And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. <sup>5</sup> And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives.**

**<sup>6</sup> Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.**

Amazing feat, catching 300 foxes and tying their tails together. Foxes were in abundance there. Use what is available in the area you are in to defeat the enemy.

Burned up the enemy's corn along with other stuff...fruit. What the enemy was expecting in a harvest is now gone. Doing wrong in the long run doesn't pay.

Philistines wanted to know what happened. When they found out the reason, they burned her and her father. Now isn't that the same thing they threatened to do before? What she had tried to avoid through deceit, happened to her any way. **She would have been better off trusting in Samson.**

Another characteristic, they blamed the father/wife for their loss when the original cause was their deceit. Take responsibility and don't act like a Philistine.

**<sup>7</sup> And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. <sup>8</sup> And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.**

Samson says when I get my pay back, and then I'll stop.

Beat the brakes off them and then took a break.

**<sup>9</sup> Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. <sup>10</sup> And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.**

Philistines had to go up to find him in Lehi = jaw.

God's people ask why are you coming up here to bother us? Answer, to get your leader.

- Notice the reason they are there. To do to him, what he did to them.

**<sup>11</sup> Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? What is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them. <sup>12</sup> And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves.**

3,000 of God's men assemble themselves, not to go against the enemy, but to bother Samson and come against him.

He's on a rock (Etam = lair of wild beasts). He's about to go into beast mode.

Don't you know they rule over us, so why are you getting the enemy upset with us?

What did you do to us? Your actions to deliver us have the enemy mad at us.....sounds like Israel in Egypt complaining about Moses stirring up trouble for them. **This will not be the last time in history that people complain about the efforts of someone trying to set them free** and facing opposition from the very people they are trying to help.

Why did they complain? Fear, comfortable with the bondage perhaps, etc.

Samson's response is the same as the enemy; I did to them what they did to me. Interesting that God's people gather against Samson but not against the real enemy. The enemy started this trouble, not Samson.

Reveals the purpose of their visit. To hold him down. Don't be surprised if people close to you come against you to hold you down instead of the common enemy.

Get this, he's fighting the enemy, but they come to deliver him to the enemy; the one who is trying to deliver them from the enemy is who they are coming against (just like Jesus).

Sad. People sometimes will not assemble or have a meeting to attack the enemy, but instead will meet to attack the one who is trying to do right. Be careful when people who are in bondage want to have meetings....chances are, they may not be meeting for the right reasons.

They gathered together against their leader rather than against the enemy or the problem.

Samson asks them not to kill him themselves.

Several commentaries make the comparison here that Samson is a type of Christ and the men of Judah like the Pharisees who betrayed Christ and turned him over to the Romans. It wasn't the Jews who killed Christ, they just turned him in, but they are just as guilty. In both examples, fear was the primary reason for their actions.

Is there an application for today? Yes indeed.

**<sup>13</sup> And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.**

Self-righteous act. No, we won't kill you but we are going to get rid of you because you're making things uncomfortable in our bondage. Won't kill you but will turn you over to the enemy. Can you say Joseph and his brothers? An evil compromise. Just like they did to Jesus...turned him over to their enemies.

The rock that he was resting on, they tie him up and bring him from that place of security.

Purpose of the meeting and them coming up there in the first place was to get him off that rock.

**<sup>14</sup> And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.**

**<sup>15</sup> And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. <sup>16</sup> And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.**

Philistines shouted against him....didn't touch him yet. But when they put his mouth on him, that's when the Spirit of the Lord came on him mightily.

You don't have to wait, when the enemy speaks against you, a great move of the Holy Spirit won't keep you down for long.

The ropes that were holding him tight before, were now falling off him. When the Spirit comes on you like that, expect what has been holding you down to come off easy. You should be able to pull this off easily when the Spirit moves on your life. I think we need a mighty move of the Spirit.

- We often struggle with things that God gives us the power to easily overcome. Put it in His hands.

Found a jawbone nearby, when the Spirit comes upon you, you can find what you need. Stretched out his hand and slew the enemy with it. The Spirit allowed him to reverse an impossible situation and achieve victory. The Spirit uses his actions (he still had to stretch out his hand), so we can participate in what God is doing by faith.

Samson declares what he did.

**<sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi. <sup>18</sup> And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?**

**<sup>19</sup> But God clave a hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.**

Gave that place a special name. **Didn't give the glory to God.** Throws away the jawbone that he had just used. Ramath-lehi = height of a jawbone.

Gets thirsty and then he calls on the Lord for help. Doesn't give God the glory until he finds himself in trouble. Sometimes after a great victory, God will put you through a trial immediately in order to humble you again.

According to some commentaries, the water probably came out of the ground in the place which translated means jaw. The place of his victory is now also the place providing him refreshing relief. The place of your greatest victory can also be the place of your fall if pride takes over rather than God.

Notice, he was bound and doomed for destruction.

God moves and he is saved from his enemies and the expected fate. Instead of defeat, he gets victory. Instead of death, he gets life, deliverance and salvation.

The place/situation that helped to save him, now provides refreshing and living water....water that moves and he finds refreshment in a dry season.

You can have a dry season after a major victory. His refreshing is tied to the place and source of his salvation. With joy shall we draw from the wells of salvation. John 7, wells of living water.

His revival causes him to change the name of the place of his victory and salvation. The place where I cried. Humility now while it was pride before.

Enhaklore – spring of One calling or the caller’s fount.

**Powerful application example**, forget not where your blessings flow. We have to be cautious to remember to give God the glory and credit and praise.

Several observations from our class:

Samson doesn’t seem to be speaking very kindly. So we wanted to see spiritually, where Samson might have been in relation to the feast steps or process.

- Samson is humble since he call on God (Step 1).
- Samson has repented and changed his mind about trying to work this out on his own (Step 2).
- Samson places his trust in God (Step 3).
- Note, Samson has not arrived at Step 4 since his speech may not be guided by the Spirit because he hasn’t been revived.
- For parents, we may have experienced times when our children discover they have a need and come to us. They have turned from trusting in themselves alone and hope we can help....but they may not always say what we want to hear or how we want them to say it.
  - The class noted that we want to encourage them to make it through the next steps.
  - We don’t want to bless and restore out of order, restore them before they make it to the first two steps....it won’t be appreciated and lesson unlearned.
- Once Samson calls on God, (Step 3), then God goes to work and makes a way. Samson is refreshed and his speech changes from talking about self and instead giving glory to God.

Powerful application:

- The first name he gave it was focused on his accomplishments. Every time he comes back to this location, it will be a reminder of what he did.
- The second name he gives this location glorifies God. Were he ever to come back to this place, it would remind him of his need for God and how God delivered him.
- Class example: so a young man crashed into the back of my car while I was pulling into my driveway. I certainly wasn’t happy, but the young man took responsibility and confessed that he wasn’t paying attention. This made it so easy for me to forgive him and provide encouragement even though he was at fault. The point, every time he drives by this driveway, it can remind him of the time he found mercy and grace. How different an experience and memory he would have if my response was anger and emotion.

Observation.....too bad Judah didn’t show up to help. A missed Kingdom opportunity. They never formed an army until now and that wasn’t even against the enemy, it was against one of their own.



**<sup>20</sup> And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.**

Elevated to now judge the people 20 years.

Spurgeon -- ...the past victory a promise of future deliverance.