

Sermon – Coming in Like a Lion (Samson defeats the lion)

Preached March 13, 2022, Cloverdale Baptist Church

Judges 14:4-5, 7-9

⁴ But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

Background: Samson is preparing for a journey in which God will use as an opportunity to strike a blow against the enemies of His people.

Parents were unaware that God was going to use this as an opportunity against the enemy. In fact, God is looking for opportunities to deal with your problems.

Nice to know that God is looking for a reason to jump in and deal with our captivity.

God might allow in certain instances as an opportunity to work against the enemy.

⁵ Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. ⁶ And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Let's follow the sequence of the story. Samson is in the process of being used by God and suddenly:

- A young lion comes against him...roars at him. A pretty big problem challenges him.
- When the lion comes against him, that's when the Spirit of the Lord comes on him "mightily".
- He is able to handle this problem quite easily. The problem that should have taken him out, he instead took out the problem with no problem.
- He didn't have anything in his hand, so in the natural, he was ill-equipped to deal with this problem.

Question? How do you think Samson was able to pull this off? I'm sure some of us would like to know because we may be dealing with some difficult circumstances and problems.

I've had some issues, there have been some lion like problems facing me and when I looked around, I found that I didn't have the answers, didn't have the right tools, to deal with some of these problems.

How can we get the same results that Samson when big problems arise?

It can't be our knowledge or wisdom or strength. He didn't have anything in his hand. All he had was the Spirit of the Lord in abundance. That was all he needed. He was powered by the Holy Spirit.

We probably need to know **how to get the Holy Spirit like that**. Follow the first four steps.

1. Recognize your need for God.
2. Repent and change your mind about how you used to handle these problems. Turn from trying to solve this problem and your own and in your own strength, instead turn to trusting in God.
3. Put your faith and hope in the Lord. Hope that you didn't have before, you can have now.
4. Receive the power of the Holy Spirit and do those things that bring glory to the Father.

If it worked for Samson, it should apply and work for us.

No college degree in the natural is a problem; but that's not a show stopper in the Spirit realm.

Situation looks hopeless, no problem for the Holy Spirit.

When we have the Spirit like that, a lot of the big problems we face should be handled with ease.

- The Spirit of the Lord can give you the super-natural assistance that you need.
 - With the Spirit, you have what you need and all that you need to win.
 - **With the Spirit, even though you may be facing tough odds, you really ought to be getting through some of this easier than expected.**
- Not by power or by might but by my Spirit says the Lord (Zech 4:6). You may need the Spirit in order to get through this problem.
- He didn't tell his parents what happened. Why? I dunno...may have fussed about the route he took. May have worried them, dunno. They may not have understood....some folk won't need to know the details.

⁷ And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well. ⁸ And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. ⁹ And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

Turned to the side to go back and visit the place of his last victory. That's a good thing to do.

Remember what God did for you and how He delivered you before.

- When he gets there, the remains of the problem still there but now there's honey inside of it. **Something sweet is inside or comes out of what was a problem earlier.**
- He uses the results and the sweetness of this victory to get nourishment and strength as he completes his mission for God.

- He shares the success with his parents who are on this journey with him. They get to enjoy the sweet results of his last victory.
- Application for us:
- When the Spirit of the Lord brings us through a problem, it will later be used to sustain and help us in the future.
- What was a difficulty before is now a sweet experience. He can look upon that problem with joy.
- There is a sweet reward in serving God in the Spirit.
- Others will benefit from what we have gone through.
- Our testimony will be for His glory and give others strength.
- Take the reward from your last trial and use it to strengthen and refresh you along the way.
 - Notice what he did with the honey. He tasted it and went on eating it. Continued to reap and use the outcome of a great testimony to get him through.
 - Came to his parents and used the reward or outcome of his testimony to bless and encourage them. Someone close to him receives a blessing and benefit from his testimony.
 - When you get through this, it is designed so that you can deliver someone else. Revelation 12:11, go to them, they may not come to you. Share the results of your testimony with others who are on this journey.
- God uses our story for His glory.

Two key observations:

- Before he could get to the honey though....had to get past the swarm of bees. Not as big a problem as the lion, so he shouldn't have any problem with some bees.
 - After you tackle your big problem, don't be surprised if some little issues try to get in the way of your reward. Just work your way through it....there's honey in the middle of this situation.
 - You just defeated a lion, so don't sweat the small stuff.
- Didn't tell them where the honey came from. When you share your testimony, people don't need to know the details. If his parents knew where the honey came from, they wouldn't have eaten it and the testimony would not have helped them.
 - Because of where you've been some people won't receive your testimony because of where it came from....even if it's good and sweet.
 - Example, Mom and the deer bacon. She was loving it until I told her it was deer, then she threw it out.