

Destiny that was Lost

Judges 14:1-4

Pastor Too Teh Hsin

After Joshua had led the Israelites into the Promised land, they began to drift further away from God and were oppressed by the Philistines (Judg. 10:6-9). They started to assimilate into Philistine's culture and gods, causing them to lose their Jewish heritage and their relationship with God. Thus God appointed a leader (Samson) through whom He would save His people (Judg. 13:3-5).

Samson's journey to his God-given destiny

1. Consecrated for Destiny

Samson was supernaturally called by God even before he was conceived. He was fully consecrated to God as a Nazarite. The Nazarite vow (Num. 6) was taken for the period of time a person consecrated themselves to God. For Samson, the Nazarite vow was initiated by an angel of the Lord. He was to abide by the vow his whole life. Samson's destiny was not about what he wanted, but what God wanted of him (Judg. 13:3-5). Likewise, our destinies are not about what we want in life; it is about what God wants of us. Our destinies must come from outside of us – a higher calling with a greater purpose. Our destinies come out of a life that is consecrated to God. Only then can we become His servants and serve the Kingdom of God rather than the kingdom of self.

2. Distracted from Destiny

While it seemed that the stage was set for Samson to bring victorious liberation from the Philistines, he instead embarked on an anticlimactic mission (vv. 1-2). Instead of fighting against the Philistines, Samson wanted to marry one of them. Despite his parents objecting, Samson still insisted on what he wanted because she was right in his eyes (v3). Samson was awestruck by a woman. *'When awe of anything but God*

kidnaps and controls your heart, you simply will not stay inside God's boundaries.' – Paul Tripp. Samson had exchanged the glory of the immortal God for created things (Ro. 1). The false gods we worship will determine the direction of our lives. We will reorient our priorities to protect and procure what we worship. Wrong worship will lead to the wrong destination.

3. Redeemed to Destiny

Samson's life was only getting worse – he had broken the Nazarite vow, defiled not only himself but also his parents, and lived a life that was far from being consecrated to God. Yet at every life-threatening situation he found himself in, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him (Judg. 14:6, 19). God is a God of grace; He chose Samson not because he was without flaws or by his performance but by sheer grace. By grace, God saved Paul who was on His way to persecute more Christians. By grace, Jesus loved Peter even after he denied Him 3 times. God chooses us not because we are good but because He is good. *'Nobody can produce new evidence of your depravity that will make God change his mind. God justified you with his eyes open.'* – J.I. Packer. Instead of being paralysed by shame, guilt, and condemnation from our sins, look to the cross to see that His grace is more than our sins! Jesus came precisely to redeem us from our worst possible sins and flaws. We must confess and repent of our sins. God never gives up on repentant sinners.

Judges 14:4 – Samson's rebellious plan to marry a Philistine woman was a part of God's plan. *'Nothing is random, nothing is pointless, nothing is meaningless. Everything – absolutely everything – is from God and through God and to God.'* – John Piper. God is able to redeem the fruits of sinful

choices by humans for His purpose. God is fully and totally in control! Jesus marries the church not because we are beautiful but to make us beautiful.