

Power that was Wasted

Judges 15:9-20

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While none of us are given the power that Samson possessed, we are given different kinds of power by God. This power can either be used for good or bad, so we need to be careful when using it.

The 3 'D's of Power:

Power that...

Deceives

The great strength that Samson possessed was a gift from God. Similarly, Christians are also given different gifts from God (1 Cor. 12:4-7). These gifts are for the common good of people and the glorification of God.

3 Deceptions of Gifts from God

#1 The Gift is for you

Our talents and gifts are from God and for God. Find ways to serve God and one another with the gifts He has given to you!

#2 You Don't Need God

The great success and achievements we have from our gifts are the blessings from God. He is the source and goal of our gifts.

#3 You Don't Need Community

God has made us to be a part of the body of Christ so that we can support and build one another up. This is God's design of us.

Destroys

A chain of destructive events followed after Samson had lost a bet with the Philistines (Judg. 14:18) and went into a fit of anger – he lost his wife (Judg. 14:20); he stuck down thirty men (Judg. 14:19) and set fire to the Philistine's crops (Judg. 15:5). In retaliation, the Philistines killed his wife and father-in-law (Judg. 15:6) and raided Lehi, wanting to apprehend Samson (vv. 9-10). When Samson was eventually delivered to the Philistines, he

killed a thousand of them (v15). Anger might start off small, but it spreads quickly like wildfire.

While anger might produce short term results, they often lead us into a moment of insanity and destruction. Jesus equates anger to murder (Matt. 5:21-22). We need to acknowledge that the problem of anger lies within ourselves. We need to reject the lies of justifying our anger (Judg. 15:3) and blame shifting (Judg. 15:7).

James 4:1-2a – The root of anger is found in our passions and desires. While it is not wrong to have both, it is wrong to give them so much importance, that we fight and quarrel to get them. At the bottom of every overreaction and every angry outburst is your false god detonating an explosion. Wrong worship leads to the wrong use of power.

Delivers

In humility, the invincible Samson became weak and showed care and concern for those around him (vv. 11-12). Like Samson, we should restrain our power and serve those who are weak around us. When we are willing to be weak, we will become strong in Christ (2 Cor. 12:10). Although Samson's own people had turned against him (v12), he displayed sacrificial love by yielding willingly to them (v12). Love one another sacrificially so that everyone will know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ!

The way Samson used his power for good points to the way Jesus used His supreme power for good. Jesus became weak for our sake; born as a helpless baby and though infinitely more powerful than Samson, He emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant. Jesus sacrificed Himself for our sake; He was led like a

lamb to slaughter and was rejected even by His own Father. He took our place to save us from our sins – this is the ultimate goal of the power of love! Come to Jesus for all your needs, for He has promised to give us all things (Ro. 8:32)!