

Samson - Part 1

by Leonard Ravenhill

The church has the potential to change the world and bring about revival and renewal, but it must rediscover its strength and wake up to its true potential.

Duration: 43:19

Scripture: Judges 16:6, Psalm 119:11, Daniel 11:32

Topics: "Samson"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of responding to God's call in the present moment. He warns that God's offer of salvation may not be available indefinitely and urges listeners to take action while they still have the opportunity. The preacher uses the story of Samson to illustrate how the enemy can bind, blind, and grind believers if they are not vigilant. He also discusses the current situation in China, highlighting the potential power and influence of the nation if it were to fully awaken. Throughout the sermon, the preacher emphasizes the need for obedience to God's commands and a deep personal relationship with Him, rather than simply relying on knowledge of the Bible.

Transcript

Well, Junior did well this morning, didn't he? What will he do ten years from now? I'll be watching from upstairs. Or maybe not. You know, it's very wonderful what people say about preachers.

I want to talk on Samson this morning. And a lady said to me the other day, I hope at this conference you'll be the jawbone of the ass. Very nice.

But better than that, a young man's been writing to me for about a couple of years, telling me how much good my books have done in his life. Changed his life around, changed his vision. And he says, it's all one way.

You're doing everything for me and I love you so. Can't I do something for you? So he called me on the phone. I want to do something for you.

I said, like what? He said, be one of your pallbearers. Pass it over. I told him to wait about 15 more years.

OK, the book of Judges, chapter 16. Judges, chapter 16, dealing mainly with verse 6. And Elilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. In one of the European versions, I think it's a Swedish version, there's one word added to the

text, which is implied anyhow.

Tell me wherein the secret of thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. This is a question of a woman of the world to a man of God. In my judgment, it'd be a great day when the world begins to ask the Church of Jesus Christ again, what's the secret of your great strength? Right now, I think she, as I said last night, she thinks we're tumbleweed tossed around by the winds of adversity in this world.

You know, it's rather an amazing thing with all the literature that's poured out of America. You know, 40,000 books, new books are published every year in America. And yet, whatever country you go into, there's one story that's preeminent.

Russia, anywhere you go. They know one story above every other. They don't have it straight any more than we do.

It's a story of Whitman Winkle. It was written by who? Washington Irving? Who says, votes for Washington Irving? Oh, he doesn't get any, okay. Well, I may as well say I wrote it, but I didn't.

Do you remember the story? It happened somewhere near New York on the west side of the Hudson River. Martha and I saw a little town called Sweepy Hollow. You may remember that this famous man, Whitman Winkle, that's quite a name.

I guess you've no children called that. Whitman Winkle went up the hill and he slept, some say 20, some say 30, some say 50 years. My teacher was, she was very suspicious of me.

She thought I wasn't smart and I thought she wasn't. But she told me Whitman Winkle slept for 20 years. But that's not the point of the story at all.

The fact is when he went up the hill, there was a sign hanging outside on the tavern and it was the head of who? George III. Because England had a lot of investments in America. You know, you think the Japanese are buying up America.

England owns far more stock in America than Japan does. But I don't have any of it, unfortunately. But anyhow, the point is not that when he went up the hill, the face of George III was on that sign, because while he was sleeping, they erased the sign and put the face of another partly Englishman, George Washington.

The point of the story is this, that while he went up the hill and slept, there was a revolution and he slept right through the revolution. And I think David implied that this morning. That's what the church is doing now.

She's sleeping through the greatest revolution in history. And it's time to wake out of sleep. One of the greatest military strategists in history was Napoleon.

I understand that in World War II, they studied his strategy. He was only a little guy about the height of Wesley 524, but he was a genius in his trade. He went through so many victories, victories, victories.

And then he met his Waterloo, we say. He met a British officer on the 18th of June in 1845. That's my birthday, not the year, just the day, June 18.

I can't even remember when I was born. But when he had a series of reverses, he gathered together his warlords. And on the wall of his great office, he had a huge map of the world.

And he got the attention of the officers with his tremendous command attention. And everybody stood still and looked. And he walked to this great map on the wall and he rang his finger around a great country.

And then he said, gentlemen, look there. There lies a sleeping giant. Let it sleep.

Because he said if that country ever wakes up and harnesses its natural power, its resources, its manpower, that country will take the world. He said that in 1845. What was the country outlined? China, which is the headache of all the nations of the world right now.

At the end of the road where we live, there's a small town or a village. NBC used it last year for their sports arena. They used it for the lake.

And various other things. Recently, some Chinese came along and made an offer to buy the whole thing because they said we're fleeing. They've come from Hong Kong.

Do you know last year 30,000 people left Hong Kong area? And it's predicted this year 60,000 people will leave because of the invasion of the wickedness of the people of China. So this man says in 1848, there lies a sleeping giant. Let it sleep.

Because if it ever wakes and harnesses its manpower to its resources, it will shake the world, will change the character. Instead of seeing a map of the world, see a map of the ages. Instead of Napoleon, see the devil.

And the devil outlines to all his demons. He runs his finger around something. He says, there lies a sleeping giant.

Let it sleep. Because if ever it awakes, it will shake the world. What is he outlining? The church of Jesus Christ.

Sleeping. And Satan says if the church of Jesus Christ ever rediscovers the resurrection life of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, it will shake the world. There is no other way to shake it.

We've tried formality. We've tried education. We've tried theology.

We've tried treatment. But the world is still unmoved. But it's not going to stay that way.

This very conference is a part of the resurrection life, as David was saying this morning. And God is going to move through this next two weeks and spread this tremendous message right through the world. Here is a woman of the world asking a man, what's the secret of your great strength? You know what happens with that? You've told these stories many times to your children, haven't you? When I've traveled the world, I've gone in art galleries.

I like to go in art galleries. They're free. And I usually ask them, do you have any religious pictures? And they'll tell me of this, that, and the other.

Every time I've seen a picture of this amazing man, Samson, he's way up there. You know, the average man in Israel was this height. Saul, the king of Israel, was head and shoulders above him.

And Goliath, this man, Samson is head and shoulders above the greatest man. That's pure nonsense. Now women ask some strange questions.

I'm after the women again. But can you imagine a woman looking up to a man 15 feet high and say, buddy, what's the secret of your strength? What do you think he's going to reply? Wheatish? You see, there are three pictures here. There's a story of Samson himself.

He's a picture of the church of Jesus Christ. He's a picture of Israel. Israel began in miraculous power.

She's going to end in miraculous power. She's seen miracles already. What about the six-day war? Nobody believed she would ever win that war.

But she blasted the enemy. I was thinking as David was speaking this morning, there are some things we have to do. If I'd been Moses, God, if I'd seen the glory of God parting the Red Sea.

But wait a minute. What did he do? He cried unto the Lord. The Lord says, quit crying.

Take your staff and divide it. There are times when he says, you do it. It's true, it's not by might nor by power, but it is by obedience.

It doesn't matter how ridiculous it looks. What do you think Israel thought when he got that staff and said, I'm going to part this like I part my hair. He'll never do it.

Ridiculous things, as David was talking this morning. Not that he was ridiculous, but some things he reminded me of. Can you imagine the people looking over the wall? You mentioned about them having a box of the presence of God.

Can you imagine those people looking all over the walls of Jericho and say, hey, come on, look at this crazy crowd. They're carrying a box of gold. Everybody's a ram's horn in his hand.

Isn't this insane? Every day they went to see this performance. And the last day they went, they were all on the wall and the wall went down. I guess they felt let down too.

The whole world went because they did not consider the opinions of men. If God says it, do it. No matter how mad it looks.

So you have the picture of Israel beginning in glorious miracle. The dividing of the sea, the splitting of the rock and the water went out. Manna coming from the skies and so forth and so on.

But now she doesn't count spiritually anyhow. She's still a thorn in the side of all the nations of the world and will be for a long while. But then you have the picture of the church of Jesus Christ.

It began in miracles. They came out of the upper room steaming, if you like, with the power of God. They went to the beautiful gate of the temple.

There was a man crippled. Jesus Christ passed him a hundred times and never touched him. Why? Because it would have been an ordinary thing if Jesus healed the sick and then gone and raised that man up.

It was normal. There was a time when it would glorify God the best. There are some miracles that God is going to do.

They've been praying for one up there at Kansas City for years in the raising of Brother Bickle's brother who was a professional footballer, got kicked in the neck and he's crippled and has been there for years. And people ask why. Because there's going to be a moment when it will glorify God if that young man is shaken, the whole of Kansas City will shake.

It will be headline news in every paper. And you know the difficult thing for those who believe God's going to do the supernatural, I've prayed about that nearly 70 years, is patience. Does it say let us run with patience the race that God has set before us? So here you have this amazing man.

David does the other half of this story. Maybe you'll preach it this week. It's far better than my half.

Anyhow, he's a Nazirite. His mother was told to keep him as a child. And remember again, this superman is born of a barren woman.

David, I believe, moved many hearts last time he was here preaching on the barren woman. It's amazing that some of the greatest men in history were born of barren women. Who was the fellow? Abraham was our old.

75 years old when God started working on him. 175 when God finished. So cheer up, you have a long way to go.

100 years. He goes to his wife one day and says, Darling, a miracle is going to happen. He's 90.

What was he, 90 there? How was he? 85? She was 90. I'm not going to ask these. Kansas City.

I mean these. What am I saying now? No, Kansas City pastors aren't here anyhow. The vineyard sellers, they always say, No, it doesn't matter what you ask.

And they say, No, okay. So I'm not asking them. Can you imagine Sarah, 90 years of age, writing to a mother? Mother, I've got news.

What's the news? I'm going to have a baby. A what? I'm going to have a baby. A baby? Adopting? No, I'm going to have it.

Mother. Mother wrote back and said, I told you never marry a preacher, they're crazy. But she had the child, a super child.

Do you remember that woman that one day got to the end of the line? She didn't part her hair nicely and put on the best perfume and the best dress she had. She throws herself at the feet of her husband, Jacob. She's tired of being mocked.

She's tired of being scorned, just like Hannah was. And she throws herself at the feet of Jacob and says, Give me children or I die. And when the vineyard is prepared to die, she'll bring the child forth.

But not while we hang on, as David was saying to our little petty ideas, our little standards, our little interpretations, they'll have to go. There's a world outside waiting to see a supernatural move of God. It's going to see it.

And it will be greater than all the revivals in history put together when it comes. And no man will get glory for it. It's going to be the production and the control and the direction of the Holy Spirit of God.

Well, here this fella is a pretty impatient guy, isn't he? He, he takes up lodgings in the Holiday Inn at the entrance of the town. And they give him an apartment and everything. And the spies say, Samson's in town.

So they say, All right, well, he's going to be sleepy. We'll get him tonight. And this fella gets up.

He's a bit of a joker. He likes a joke. I do too.

So he picks up half of the town, picks up the Holiday Inn and the gates, carries them up on a hill. And then there's a good laugh. He says, It's not by might, no by power.

You'll never get these things back. Do you know, God Almighty, maybe we'll wreck the economy of America to get glory for his son. He doesn't care a hill of beans about Wall Street.

He owns a cat on a thousand hills. I remember going to a prayer meeting one night. The pastor said to me, These farmers here, they pray such funny things.

He said the other night, a man said, We need that money for missions. Another man said, Lord, the cat. What did he say? What's the whole text? Oh, I know.

I know you're not sleeping now. OK. What did he say? The silver and the gold is yours, Lord, this old farmer says.

And the cat on a thousand hills. So the old farmer said behind, Yes, Lord, the cat on a thousand hills are yours. Drive them all this way.

But you know what I like about this? I want to emphasize, I don't have that much time. You see, here is a man with the anointing of God. He's an absolute embarrassment to his enemies.

They think they've got him in a trap and he gets out. They suffer more than he suffers. He goes home and has a big laugh about the whole thing.

Because he has what is the most precious thing in this side of eternity. You can't buy it. You can't merit it.

It doesn't come with diploma. It doesn't come with a degree. He had the anointing of God.

The Spirit of the Lord was upon him. And that's the greatest jewel this side of eternity. Some of you would sell your house and your stocks and your cars to get it.

You can't. The Spirit of God is not available for anything but obedience and submission. And there's a cost to it.

So repeatedly you have this statement. The enemies of the Lord of the Philistines. I mean, the Lord of the Philistines, verse 3, said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and wherewith he might be bound to afflict thee.

You see, she knew he wasn't a normal man. The enemy knew he wasn't a normal man. And he wasn't a normal man.

But he trifled, fooled about with this wretched woman. Entice him. Listen to what he says, verse 7. Sam said unto her, If they bind me with seven green whisks that were never used, then shall I be like another

man.

No, I wish it said that. He isn't decent even. He says, You bind me, I shall be weak like other men.

I'm sick to death of mediocrity. I'm looking for God to render heavens and come and give anointings to nobodies that nobody knows. Nobody has educated them.

Nobody's trained them. They come out of the woodwork, if you like. But they come in this phenomenal power of the Spirit of God.

He says again in verse 10. Behold, thou hast mocked me when the trick didn't work, and told me lies. Now tell me, I pray thee, wherein thou mightest be bound.

He knew that they were going to bind him. It says again in verse 11. He said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that were never occupied, then again he underlies it, then shall I be weak like other men.

The latter therefore took new ropes, but they didn't work. Then in verse 15, she comes up with an old trick. She said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee? In other words, you know, that tremendous weapon of woman.

Oh, you don't love me. Boy, you can get anything. A fur coat or a car, we're saying that.

You don't love me. Tell me the secret, but listen. She doesn't give up pestering him.

Entice him, yes. What's it say? Verse 16. When it came to pass, she pressed on him daily with her words, and urged him so that he was vexed.

He began to lose control. He isn't relying on the power of God. He's more conscious of the enemy around about him.

I remember Dr. Chaucer said to me one day, Len, be careful of men who talk more about Antichrist than about Christ. And today we're talking about difficulty. What a difficulties to God.

I don't think they're in his Dictionary at all. When Delilah saw that she called, okay, verse 18. Delilah saw, he told her all his heart.

She sent and called for the Lords of the Philistines, saying up at this one, Here are these men embarrassed. Here is a man, every report that comes out. This man that has no army behind him.

This man who isn't super high. I think it was normal in every aspect. Not an inch taller, not an inch broader.

But somehow there was a mysterious power. You can't define God. You can't define the power of God any more than you can define what electricity is.

When Delilah saw, he told her all his heart. Do you notice that? She got down to his heart. She sent and called for the Lords of the Philistines, saying come up once.

He showed me all his heart. The Lords of the Philistines came upon her. And she made him sleep on her knees.

You know, you're going about. What's he doing? Putting down strongholds. Chasing, tying the tails of foxes together.

And this man's getting tired. So she comes to his natural resources. You're tired.

Put your head on my lap and go to sleep. As I say, if it stayed on his knees, it never got on hers. Every man that was fallen that David mentioned politely this morning.

More politely than I do. Whether it's so-and-so or so-and-so. Every one of those men that landed up in a mess and threw away their life's work.

A guy put 200 million dollars and 20 years of sleepless nights, really, to build the Christian Disneyland called PTL. Where did he fail? He stopped praying. He stopped reading the word.

He stopped getting along with God. All those men that fell. Swaggart, him and a bunch of others.

I can give you the name of a neighbor of mine who went to them two years before they collapsed and said, you're heading for destruction. They laughed at him. It's no good saying they had no friends.

They had friends. But it's very difficult when you're managing a multimillion dollar corporation. For somebody to come up that only has 10 bucks in his pocket and he's going to tell you what to do.

But listen, we better take counsel from the weakest and the least person in our fellowship. They may have more wisdom than we have very often. But this man didn't want to hear.

And so he closed his ears. When Delilah saw that he told her all his heart, the Philistines came. And then he slept on the knees.

She began to cut off his hair. Why? Because there were three things an Azrite could not do. He could not drink wine, a sign of worldly pleasure.

He could not touch anything that was dead, a sign of worldly people. And he must let his hair grow, which in those days was reproach. As I thought about this last night, I remember preaching a message on this, not the same, about 25 years ago in Minneapolis.

And I said, you cannot touch worldly things. You cannot be married to worldly people. And it's not just marriage that we're unequally yoked.

We're unequally yoked in business. So you preachers are equally yoked with deacons that you put in office because they have money, not because they have anointing. People talked about today the Restoration Church.

Show me one. Show me one church in America where all the deacons are like the deacons in Acts 6. Because what did they do? Stephen was elected because he was full of what? Wisdom? No, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost and he did signs and wonders and miracles as much as any apostle who's only a deacon. That's the deacon standard in the sixth chapter.

In the eighth chapter, you find the same thing where it says, Philip, a very ordinary man, he went down to a city and again the anointing of God was on him. That anointing doesn't come by cleverly reshuffling your congregation. It's something that God endures.

So what did he do? They cut off his hair. Again, that was a reproach. He became like others.

And it says in verse 20, when she said to the Philistines, be upon thee, Samson, he woke out of his sleep and said, I will go out at other times like David was saying. He didn't know that glory departed, never put his hand up. If he'd been 15 feet high and he woke up and he was only four feet high, he'd know something had happened.

But he's still the same height. He's still the same muscle. He's still the same environment.

The only thing is, and it's everything, God has left him. It's again true that one man with God is a majority. God never raised up Methodism, he raised up Wesley.

And out of Wesley came rivers of living water. He didn't raise up the Salvation Army that touched the world in 70 countries in 90 years. He did not raise up the army.

He raised up a man who was half Jew and a half Gentile, William Booth, with a wonderful wife who had the anointing of the Spirit. But this man wished not that the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him. Come on, you go to church, the same thing happens.

You know, some people scorn the old-fashioned churches. The Church of England, some of the greatest hymns we have were born in the Church of England. Some of the greatest mysteries we have was never a greater mystery than Henry Martin.

He had a colossal intellect. There was a man in America dying at 29 years of age, and he weighed less than 100 pounds. He threw the torch of his testimony, as it were, across the Atlantic, and it fell on the desk of a young man by the name of Henry Martin.

And he read, does God still do this? Does God still get men? Does God still control men? Are the men that yield to God so that your spirit, soul, and body may be His? If God can do it in the life of that young man that died, He can do it in me. So Henry Martin was a senior student. He was the most prolific brain in England.

He was the best eligible bachelor. He took his genius to India. What did he do? He took the Greek New Testament and the other New Testament, and he translated out of the Greek New Testament, the whole New Testament into Hindustani.

And when he finished that, he translated the whole of the New Testament into Arabic, a more difficult language. At the same time, the anointing of God was upon him. Do you know he did all that in less, in about three and a half years? You see, God can shorten time like that.

We still have to see the super work of God. We've not seen it. I'm a bit tired of going back to the day of Pentecost.

I don't want to see, I don't want to, I could quit reading church history, except it troubles me. I want to see history made this week I want to see history made in my generation. I want God to raise up these supermen, men like Samson.

Doesn't it say in Daniel 9, the people that do know their Bible shall do exploits? Doesn't it say that? What does it say? The people what? That know their God. We've substituted knowing God for knowing our Bibles. Do you know America's drowning in millions and billions of teaching tapes? I get papers time and

time again.

You must get these 20 new revelations of ours. And they're as old as Adam nearly, except he didn't have the tapes. But they're old fashioned anyhow.

But everybody's getting teaching tapes, teaching tapes. Well, there's a place for teaching, but there's a place for thus saith the Lord. Where suddenly our God shoots his arrows into us.

You feel as though something has come from eternity and struck you and you then put it out. You see, that's why we need the word of God in our hearts. Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.

Why? Because if the word is hid in my heart, the spirit can quicken it. Then it becomes a sharp twedged sword. It's like somebody sticking a javelin into me and twisting it round and round.

You know, when these fellows talk about how they've fallen into sin, do you know some of it's lying? One man says he's had trouble with pornography three or four years. Somebody says he's had it 10 years. Listen, that's a lie against the Holy Ghost.

He convicts of sin. How is it these men have talked more about the Holy Ghost than anyone in history? Then they've made the biggest mess. The Pentecostal Testament is defiled, damaged, degraded, not by its enemies, not by its opponents, but by its exponents.

They brought it to shame. And so it's time to reverse the order and raise up a holy people, a pure people, a sanctified people. I say it's difficult.

The Holy Spirit of God is faithful. He is the Spirit of truth. And before you commit sin, He'll even stop you.

To commit sin, you have to do a lot of things. Number one, you have to deny the Word of God that's in your heart. Number two, you have to resist the Spirit.

Number three, you have to grieve the Spirit. Number four, you have to quench the Spirit. Again, David in misery cries, Oh God, take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Why? Because he'd seen Saul anointed. Saul was anointed with the power of God and he prophesied, but he died a suicide. It's a dangerous thing to get the anointing of God.

We presume it's going to be there forever. We still say the right words. We still do the same things.

We still don't greet the deacons. We don't bring worthiness into the church. But the power is gone.

We're not raising another generation who have what we've got. If I can't communicate life and power, I don't want to live. My day is nearly gone.

You've got all these great preachers on this program this week and I'm glad they're here. Distinguished preachers. I preached in Wales at a wonderful time.

I could tell you some marvelous things about that two weeks. It's still living. But the lady I stayed with had just one son in a little cottage and she made the most wonderful food you could dream of.

And she got the fire so hot, it was unbearable. When I got home, she sent me a wonderful letter. I said, Martha, dear, listen to this letter.

This lady says she's had many of the visiting preachers staying in her home. But she said, Mr. Rayner, I think you're the most extinguished preacher I've ever heard. Boy, I wrote her a letter of thanks immediately.

No, I say, David has seen Saul, the king of Israel, anointed with pomp and circumstance. And then he sees him losing his anointing and he goes crawling on his feet to the feet of a dirty spiritist. He sees a man who's panic stricken.

The servant of God comes along and says, King, the Lord hath departed from me. And he thought, well, this guy won't dare say anything against the king. And bless God, he was faithful.

He says, the Lord hath departed from me. And David said, don't take your Holy Spirit from me. I said the other night, you won't hear me say this quickly.

The town I met my dear Martha in, I preached on Psalm 51 one Saturday night and the whole crowd went out. The whole crowd's about 120. So they all stampeded out of place.

And one lady stayed at the back. She was about six feet high, dressed in black, miserable. She could have been a witch without any makeup.

I've seen some wretched looking women in my life, but I never saw anybody like her. And we had a little altar there and she knelt there and put her elbows down, put her hands up and she sobbed. She didn't just cry, she sobbed and she shook and she shook.

Everybody had gone except one guy. I said, stay there a minute. This woman's so ferocious.

But anyhow, she knelt there and cried and cried and cried. And I said to a lady, the meeting's over, the people have gone. What's your trouble? What's my trouble? She said, tonight, when you read the Psalm of David, cleanse me and restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.

And the tears came in torrents down her cheeks. She said, Mr. Raymond, that's the first time in 40 years God has spoken to me. I lost my joy.

I lost my temper one night after a meeting. I was working with another lady in the Salvation Army as an officer. We'd been having great blessing, but we quarreled who should lead the meeting that night, who should choose the hymns.

And at the end, she said, I got angry. And she said, I went home, I took off my tunic, as they called, the coat she had. I cut it up, took off my skirt and cut that off, put them on the fire, tore my bible up and put that on the fire.

I finished with everybody and everything, just because I was depressed and the devil attacked me. And she said, I forfeited my ministry. And she said, after that, I heard William Booth.

I heard Commissioner Lawley. I heard Colonel Bringle. And not one man ever moved me.

God has never spoken to me till tonight. And she said, I won't. And as you preach there, I said, Lord, restore unto me.

I'm 40 years barren, 40 years of wasted life. 40 years of chosen blindness. 40 years of chosen darkness.

40 years of loneliness. Mr. Red, you have no idea what it means. It's more than being a widow.

It's more than being an outcast. When God leaves you, I took the Bible, but it didn't mean a thing. I prayed, it didn't mean a thing.

But she said, oh God, in mercy, came tonight and restored the joy. And you know, it did come back. For the simple reason, she never missed a prayer meeting after that.

I went to church one morning at seven o'clock, Sunday morning, we had a prayer meeting. And the snow was deep. And she's standing with snow halfway up her legs, waiting for the prayer meeting, and then pouring her heart out in prayer.

You see, the tragedy of meetings like this, they seem fun at times. But you know, in every meeting where God is, somebody dies or somebody lives. This is God's last call to some of you.

That wineskin isn't gonna be offered to you for 50 years. You better do it while God is calling. He says, I'll go out as at other times.

And he wished not, or he wasn't aware, the Spirit of the Lord departed him. Now I could summarize the whole story like this. The Philistines got hold of this superman.

They don't know his next move. They know it will be something that's unreasonable, something you can't calculate, something you can't esteem. And so they're watching every move.

So what did they do? He's given away the secret. The first thing they do is bind him. The next thing they do is blind him.

The next thing they do is grind him. They put him there, give him the job of a donkey. He's going round and round and round and round, breaking up the chaff and the wheat, as you heard earlier.

He's doing a donkey's job. He's become a tourist attraction. The greatest joke's being told now.

I don't watch TV, but a brother told me this week with sorrow. They're still cracking jokes about Pete, Yellen, and Swaggart. These fellow having a fine time.

Wait a minute. Let's see what happens here. The Philistines put out his eyes, verse 21.

They bind him and send him down to Gaza and bound him with fetters of brass. And they did grind him in the prison house. They put the donkey off and that thing's going round and he's tied to it, pushing it round.

And it's grinding the corn. You see, he destroyed their crops. He took the corn out of their mouths.

They said, you'll put it back. And they made a slave of him. He would mean the slave of God.

Then what does it say? The lords of the Philistines gather themselves together before Dagon, their God, to rejoice. For they said, our God hath delivered Samson. Our God.

What the New Age people say now. They've changed their language from New Age to being born again. They mock us, but it's only for a season.

They only mock this man for a season. Again, can you imagine him going round and round day by day and people laughing and saying, you mean that that man once slew 2,000 of our men with a jawbone of an ass? You mean that that man once did exploits that have never been preceded or anteceded since? They were not done before. They won't be done after.

Is that the man? Can you imagine his misery? Every day they come and scorn him. And he thinks of the days when they had the anointing of God, and now they're making jokes of him. And it says, verse 24, when they saw him, they praised their God.

For they said, our God hath delivered Samson into our hands, the destroyer of our country. Notice that, our God, our enemy, our country. He's through many of us.

And it came to pass when their hearts were merry that they said, call for Samson, that he may make us sport in the prison house. And he made them sport. They put, they humiliate him and drown him in humility every day, humiliation every day.

All the enemies of God are laughing. A lot of people are laughing at us now. You can't mention evangelism.

Every evangelist is a crook. They're laughing at us. But God is hearing that in heaven.

I think David mentioned, or was it this morning, earlier? It was Todd that mentioned there are millions of prayers going up for this conference. This is the most prayed off conference in history, I believe. I believe every demon in hell is afraid of this conference.

I believe the angels of God are waiting for a new celebration of the power of God. So what did they do? Verse 27 says, the house was full of men and women and all the Lords of the Philistines were there. And they were upon the house.

They were upon the roof, 3,000 men. That's, in the gallery, there were 3,000. And usually the auditorium holds twice as many as a gallery.

So I figure, I think pretty reasonably, there were 10,000 people here. And Samson is there, alone. This is their day.

As I say again, let me emphasize that. Samson had become an embarrassment to them. I pray God Almighty will so rest on the vineyard if we know for two things, a fighting faith and a joyous Jesus.

Joy in Jesus and fighting the good fight of faith. That the enemies of God will have to say, we don't know much about the other churches here. But this church we do know, there's a power that doesn't rest anywhere else.

That God is in residence there. It's not stained glass windows. I don't think this building looks a bit like the Crystal Cathedral.

What's a Crystal Cathedral if they don't have no living God? It's not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, what's it say? This man is just worn with humiliation. They're making merry, they're making sport.

He's become an object of tourist attraction.

And inwardly he says, oh my God, if only I could get revenge. Look at verse 26. Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand.

You see that? One little 16-year-old boy can take the mightiest man in the world by the hand. Once he wouldn't have gone near that hand. That's the hand that picked up the jawbone of an ass.

And wiped out the enemy. And now a boy can hold him.

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