

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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Lessons From the Life of Samson: Part 1

- Why should we study the lives of individuals in the Scriptures?

Read Romans 15:4

The Bible is filled with characters, literally and figuratively. Perhaps the best way to describe how the Bible portrays its characters is "human" because they are, in fact, human. The Bible is true and the people that inhabit its pages were real people with real problems, just like us. The Bible does not shy away from presenting both the strengths and weaknesses of those it portrays. This makes the characters in the Bible "practical" in the sense that we can relate to them and educational in the sense that we can learn from their successes and failures.

We are called to live a holy life

Samson's name means "like the sun." He was miraculously conceived after an Angel of the LORD appeared to his barren mother. The Messenger gave an instruction to Samson's mother about how they should raise the child.

Read Judges 13:4-5

The instruction is clear: Samson would be consecrated and become a Nazirite from birth. It is very clear that Samson should not let a razor come upon his head, drink wine, and eat anything unclean.

The full description of the Nazirite vow is found in Numbers 6. Both men and women can make the Nazirite vow. Nazirites are commanded not just to drink wine, but they also must stay away from grapes or vineyards altogether. This is done to lessen the temptation to sin.

As Christians, we have a higher calling than the pursuit of happiness. It is the pursuit of holiness.

Even though the Nazirite vow can be done within a limited period of time, Samson is made a Nazirite for his whole lifetime (Judges 13:5).

The meaning of Nazirite means "to be separated." Nazirite has almost same meaning with the word "holy" which means *sanctified*. Like Samson, we are all called to be separated from this world's way of life.

In a spiritual sense, **we must be all Nazirites**, consecrated and separated for God's purpose. The Nazirite vow is compared to our baptism, signifying our commitment to God.

The Apostle Paul clearly states:

God expects Christians to live a **holy life**. This means a life that is wholly dedicated to God's way of life. We must offer our life as a "living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is [our] reason reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be **TRANSFORMED** by the renewing of [our] mind, that [we] may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

So let me ask you these questions:

We are **CHRISTIANS**. We are not just Christians during church services. We are not just Christians when we are surrounded by our church mates. We are not just Christians when things are going according to plan and are very convenient for us.

No, that is not Christianity, that's HUMANITY! If we are to say that we believe in Christ and our actions show the exact *opposite*, then we are not fooling anyone, but ourselves. Christianity is not merely a feel-good and part-time duty. *It demands all our being*. It demands HOLINESS. The life of a Christian is a life of overcoming. It is NOT a life of conforming. Any dead fish can swim down a river, but it takes a live and strong fish to go against the current. In the same way that it takes an active, zealous, and faithful Christian to go against the influence of this world and eventually be part of God's Kingdom.

So decide to be a holy Christian today and do your best to make it to the family of God.

Points to Ponder

- When are we going to decide and give 100% of all our being, mind, heart, and strength to God?
- What are the things that easily ensnare us and prevent us from surrendering our lives to Him?
- What are the things that are holding us back?