

SAMSON—1

Men: 2 kinds of movies—Good ones & Chick Flicks!
Pumped—4 weeks—journey—build the men!

I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. Ezek 22:30

Stand in the gap, fight the fight, love their wives, raise kids

Henry Varley, “World has yet to see—I will be that man!”

Samson: Accomplishments are legendary—so are his weaknesses.
Samson—like us—tremendous God-given potential—self-destructs.

- **SAMSON WAS AN INCREDIBLY STRONG MAN WITH A DANGEROUSLY WEAK WILL.**

Birth announced by an angel	Compromise vow handful honey
Set apart and chosen to deliver	Uncontrollable fits of anger
Massively empowered sup strength	Killed 30 men pay off gambling
Tore apart a lion, killed 1000 men	Insatiable weakness for women

Committed to work or gym—won’t commit woman.

Aggressive at work—passive/hands off at home.

3 hrs researching what you want to buy—not 5 minutes God’s word.

Love God, wife—trapped in a lustful secret world.

Israelites had done evil in the eyes of God. Handed to Phil for 40 yrs.

Judges 13: Angel says, sterile—conceive and give birth to a son.

Set apart from birth—to deliver God’s people from Philistines!

Special Nazerrite Vow (Numbers 6)

Don’t drink wine, don’t eat anything unclean, don’t cut your hair.

Give an ordinary (non-priest) the way to dedicate his life to God.

What’s w/hair? Outward/inward

ATTITUDES THAT MAKE STRONG MEN WEAK

- **LUST: I WANT IT.**

Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. 2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife."
Judges 14:1-2

Timnah in Philistine territory, 4 miles from Samson’s village Zorah.
Didn’t ask, Don’t care what God says... what’s wise... good for me...

- **ENTITLEMENT: I DESERVE IT.**

Lion approaches—Mountain lion. Spirit of the Lord came on Samson
Tears the lion apart!

Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey, 9 which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along.
Judges 14:8-9a

Broke a vow to God for a handful of honey!

Leave faithful wife—home wrecker, Boat instead of tithe or provide
Cheap thrills with a computer screen rather than be honest!

- **PRIDE: I CAN HANDLE IT.** Cut hair, touch dead, drunk.

Now his father went down to see the woman. And Samson made a feast there, as was customary for bridegrooms. Judges 14:10

feast: *mishteh* (mish-teh’); a feast or party; a celebration or occasion for drinking. Keg party! Bachelor party!

I’m strong! I want it. I can handle it. I deserve it!

Drawn toward something that should be off-limits to your faith.

Grip of sin tightening.

Wanted a few drinks. Deserve few drinks. Handle few drinks!
Wanted to flat screen, computer, car. Deserve. Handle payments!
Wanted to have girlfriend stay night. Deserve, Handle.
Just looking. It's no big deal. I can handle it!

Fast forward—eyes are gouged out and he's the laughing stock!
Divorced, No relationship with kids, Financial wreck! Handful honey

Samson—with long hair.
Outside looks like he's following God. Inside—his heart has drifted!

You want to be a strong man of God—admit to your weaknesses!

ATTITUDES THAT MAKE WEAK MEN STRONG

- **I WANT GOD.**
- **I DESERVE DEATH.**
- **I CAN'T HANDLE ANYTHING WITHOUT GOD.**

Strongest man I know—want a husband—weakest.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Eph. 6:10

My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 Cor 12:9 NKJV

If a tree falls in a forest and no one is there to hear it, did it make a sound? If a man breaks a rule and no one is there to see it, did it happen?

2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man. 1 Kings 2:2

16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. Acts 3:11-16

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:14

13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. 14 Do everything in love. 1 Cor 16:13-15

24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, 25 and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol. Judg 13:24-25

Mahaneh Dan was the training ground for soldiers of the tribe of Dan.