Judges - Commentaries by Grandma Smith

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Samson and the Foxes (15:1-6)

Do you remember how Samson visited a young woman in the land of the Philistines whom he wished to marry? But when he went back again to marry her, her father said, No! Samson was not at all happy about that and decided to get even.

Perhaps that was all right, but we have a God who loves us far more deeply than Samson ever loved this young woman. God sent His Son into the world, but Jesus, the Son of God, came to His own people, and they would not receive Him. In today's story this young woman's father answered for her, but you cannot let anyone else answer for you. You must answer for yourself about receiving God's Son, the living, loving Savior. God knew long ago that you are a sinner, and you cannot come to His home in heaven with your sins. So He sent His Son for you and me: "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

Samson saw that the Philistines' fields were golden with ripened grain, ready for harvesting, and some of it was already gathered into shocks standing in the fields. He also saw that the olive trees were loaded with ripe olives, ready for picking to make olive oil.

He came up with a plan to get even. He caught three hundred foxes and tied their tails together in pairs. Then he put a torch between each pair of tails and set the torches on fire. Of course, the foxes ran in all directions through the Philistines' fields of ripened grain, and the burning torches set the fields on fire. The ripened grain and standing shocks burned to ashes, and the ripe olives flared like oil lamps!

Who did this? cried the Philistines. And they were told that Samson had done this to get even, because this young woman's father refused to let Samson marry her. The Philistines were very angry with her and her father and burned them both with fire.

You see it is dangerous to say "No" to a strong man. But it is more dangerous to say "No" to God. His offer to save you from your sins has cost Him the life-blood of His only Son. He loves sinners with a deeper love than anyone on earth could ever love.

The Bible tells us two wonderful things that no one can change: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). "Our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29).

Think About God's Word!

1. What did Samson do to get revenge?

2. Why do we want to hurt someone that has hurt us? What did the Lord do when He was "hurt" by others? (Part of the answer is in 1 Peter 2:21-24.)

Project: How did David respond in 2 Samuel 16 when he was attacked by Shimei?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Samson and the Jawbone (15:9-19)

In our last story of Samson, he set on fire the Philistines' fields that were ready for harvesting. Of course, the Philistines were angry! Now Samson's own people were afraid that the Philistines would come against them because of what Samson had done. So they hunted for Samson until they found him in the cleft of a rock where he was staying.

They planned to tie him up and hand him over to the Philistines. But they could not tie up a man who was stronger than they were. First they promised him, We will not kill you, but we will give you to the Philistines. Then Samson allowed them to tie him up. You see, God had given him a secret source of strength against the enemies of God.

All true Christians have a secret source of strength too, so that all the powers of Satan and death can never drag us down to a lost eternity. Are you saved from your sins? Are you born into the family of God? Then you are His forever, and no man or devil can snatch you out of His hand. Jesus said, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand" (John 10:28).

The Philistines shouted when they saw their strong enemy tied up, but they did not know the power of God. The ropes on Samson's arms broke loose like burnt thread, and God gave him mighty power. He picked up the jawbone of a donkey and killed a thousand men with it!

We Christians must remember that God never tells us to fight people. Our struggle is with the evil in our own hearts. This is where God will give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, but it is not an easy victory.

Samson saw all those dead men, and he said, Heaps upon heaps.. . . With the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men! But did he really? Didn't God give him the victory? He was taking the praise to himself.

Samson was thirsty, so thirsty that he thought he would die, and then he called on the Lord. "In the day of my trouble I will call upon Thee: for Thou wilt answer me" (Psalm 86:7). It is a good thing to call on the Lord when you are in impossible trouble, but why not call on Him right

now? Our breath is always in the hand of God, and our sins were an impossible barrier. Why not praise Him for His wonderful forgiveness and ask Him for daily strength right now.

Yes, God answered Samson's prayer of distress. He split a hollow place, and from that hollow place came springing water. Samson drank the water and was revived. He had named the place, "The high place of the jawbone," in honor of his victory, but now he changed the name to "The well of him who called." He was not remembering it as his victory; he was remembering it as his need.

God tells us what our song will be in heaven. All of us will be praising together the One who has redeemed us to God by His blood. Are you redeemed by the blood of Jesus? If not, you can't join in that song, and you won't be there. But if you are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, you can sing that song with all your heart today. You can find it in Revelation 5:9-10.

Think About God's Word!

1. What did Samson think had given him victory?

2. Have you ever taken credit for a success that belonged to someone else? A good attitude toward a spiritual victory is given in 1 Corinthians 15:57. What is that attitude?

Project: How does 1 Samuel 17 show who David trusted for winning a victory over Goliath?

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