

## Samson: Blinded By Success

### SAMSON'S STRANGE STORY

Judges 13-16/ Hebrews 11:32-34/ Numbers 6:1-22

### LIFE LESSONS

- (1) **It's never too late to come home.**

Judges 16:28-31/ Luke 15:11-32/ Revelation 12:10 & Revelation 3:1-20/ Jeremiah 18:1-8

- (2) **God's "Plan B" is never as good as his "Plan A."**

Judges 16:21-30/ Luke 15:28-32

- (3) **Success doesn't mean God's approval.**

Judges 16:20/ Psalm 73/ 2 Peter 3:9-10/ Proverbs 16:4  
Judges 14:1-4 & Deuteronomy 7:3-4, 2 Corinthians 6:14-19

- (4) **Guard your heart or you'll lose your mind.**

Proverbs 4:23 & 1 Kings 11:1-13/ 2 Timothy 2:22

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## Food for Thought

For the week of December 7, 2014  
(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

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1. Larry used Asaph in Psalm 73 as an example of someone who struggled with thinking that success equals God's approval. Take a minute to go back and read all of Psalm 73 and then answer the following questions.

Where do you see comparison and bitterness show up in this psalm?

What is it that ultimately helped Asaph overcome the trap of shortsightedness and comparison?

How does Asaph's attitude change once his perspective changes?

2. Larry talked about it never being too late to come home. A big part of coming home is being willing to accept God's forgiveness of our sins and past mistakes. What encouragement do the following passages provide for understanding and accepting God's love and forgiveness for us?

### **Isaiah 1:18**

18 "Come now, let us settle the matter,"  
says the Lord.

"Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,  
they shall be like wool. [NIV]

### **Psalm 32:5**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess  
my transgressions to the Lord."

And you forgave  
the guilt of my sin. [NIV]

### **Psalm 103:8-14**

8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;  
14 for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust. [NIV]

**1 John 1:8-9**

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [NIV]

3. We heard this weekend about the importance of guarding our heart. How could the following verses help you strategize how to guard your heart?

**Proverbs 28:26**

26 Those who trust in themselves are fools,  
but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe. [NIV]

**Philippians 4:4-8**

Final Exhortations

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. [NIV]

**James 5:16**

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. [NIV]