



REAL HEROES FOR DARK DAYS

A STUDY OF JUDGES

#10: SAMSON: THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED POTENTIAL (PT. 2) JUDGES 13-16

JIM HINTON

I. THE DESTRUCTIVE CYCLE OF ISRAEL'S SIN CONTINUES



II. SAMSON: THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED POTENTIAL—JUDGES 13-16

1. Act One: Samson's thrilling beginning (13:1-25)

⇒ His birth was predicted by The Angel of the Lord (v.1-3)

⇒ He had godly parents (v.4-5a; 8-23)

⇒ God had a special purpose for his life (v.5b-25)

2. Act Two: Samson's turbulent life (14:1-16:22)

Our character, basically, is a composite of our habits.

“Sow a thought, reap an action;

sow an action, reap a habit;

sow a habit, reap a character;

sow a character, reap a destiny,” the maxim goes.

Habits are powerful factors in our lives. Because they are consistent, often unconscious patterns, they constantly, daily, express our character and produce our effectiveness... or ineffectiveness.

Stephen Covey in The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

Samuel Johnson

Samson made a habit of...

- Worldly attitudes:

Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

Proverbs 13:15 (NIV)

- Impulsive decisions:

- Moral compromise:

- Trivializing godliness:

3. Act Three: Samson's tragic end (16:23-31)