



REAL HEROES FOR DARK DAYS

A STUDY OF JUDGES

#11: SAMSON: THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED POTENTIAL (PT. 3) JUDGES 15-16

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I. THOUGHTS ON FINISHING WELL

1. Explain the following scripture:

The end of a matter is better than its beginning...
Ecclesiastes 7:8a (NIV)

2. It appears to have at least a couple of applications:

- Good News: It doesn't matter how you start out—but how you finish that counts
- Bad News: Having a great start is no guarantee of having a good ending

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)

Samson made a habit of...

- Worldly attitudes:

- **Impulsive decisions:**
- **Moral compromise:**
- **Trivializing godliness:**

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

III. WAYS TO AVOID THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED POTENTIAL

- 1. View my relationship with God as a lifestyle – not an event**
- 2. Realize that small moral compromises often lead to big moral failures**
- 3. Refuse to put myself in situations that could compromise my commitment to God**