

A POPULAR HERO

Judges 16:20

Ordinary People Used By God Series

Introduction: Samson was an exceedingly popular man. He had qualities that appealed with great power to the people of his time then and to our time as well. With all his greatness and being used by God, Samson lost his use to God. What happened? What caused Samson to fall?

I. HE WAS VERY POPULAR

1. Samson was gifted with a happy disposition:
 - He loved jokes.
 - He enjoyed life.
 - He was optimistic.
2. Samson was a man of fine physical courage:
 - He never met an enemy he didn't defeat.
 - He never showed fear.
 - He even killed a young lion with his hands.
3. Samson was an athlete:
 - He was an all round hero.
 - He was muscular and strong.
 - He was regarded with highest admiration by all.

II. WHAT WAS THE SECRET OF HIS GREAT STRENGTH?

1. He did not owe it to his excellent training.
 - It was not inherited.
 - It was a gift from God.
2. A vow of consecration to God brought his strength:
 - His parents before him made a vow to God.
 - When he came of age, he assumed the vow his parents had made.
3. God still uses the same conditions today:
 - Anyone who puts themselves in God's hands will be used by God.
 - God will give that dedicated one the gift which He thinks best.

III. WHAT CAUSED SAMSON TO FALL?

1. Perhaps Samson simply grew tired of being good:
 - He just needed a change.
 - His was a normal, human desire.
 - Haven't you ever wanted to just do something different for a change?
 - Haven't you ever felt the "call of the wild?"

2. Samson had a great deal of egotism:
 - He was quite sure of himself.
 - He even spent his holidays among his enemies.
 - He loved exposing himself to dangers, even got a thrill from it.
3. Samson hunted for temptation and found it:
 - It is sad when any servant of the Lord feels so bored that temptation is tried as a means of relief.
 - God said, "*Lead us not into temptation...*"
 - Samson yielded to the temptation and broke his vow to God.

IV. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF HIS BROKEN VOW?

1. It cost Samson his strength:
 - God will not give us a gift if we do not use it for Him.
 - The father loved his prodigal son, but couldn't bless him as long as the son remained in the pig pen.
 - Sin cuts us off from God's help and robs us of God's power.
2. It cost Samson his eye sight:
 - Going into sin, one always goes into darkness.
 - Sin blinds us to God.
3. It cost Samson his freedom:
 - Sin bound him in chains and made a slave of him.
 - Samson tried temptation for a fuller life, more freedom.
 - Sin always offers what is never given and gives what is never mentioned.

Summary: Samson allowed himself to be fooled into believing that the way of God was boring, enslaving, and impoverishing, while the way of disobedience and tempting temptation was a way to a fuller life with more freedom and excitement.