

A
ROARING
LION
JUDGES 14:5-9

Judges 14:5-9

So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him. And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. Then he went down and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well. After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion. He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

As a basis for our lesson, let's take this experience of Samson and see if we can make some spiritual applications for us today.

The Journey

He journeyed from Zorah to Timnah.

It was about a distance of ten miles.

Likewise the journey of life is brief.

Psalms 39:5

Behold, thou hast made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in thy sight. Surely every man stands as a mere breath!

Psalms 144:4

Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

Job 14:1-2

"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

I Peter 1:24

Because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away.

It is a continuous journey.

But it is made only once.

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment.

A Lion Was In The Way

Judges 14:5

Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him.

Just as Samson met a lion on his journey:

We meet lions on our journey.

Satan—with temptation after temptation.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour.

Like a lion, temptation is often unavoidable.

You cannot avoid temptation in this life.

Like the lion, they are often sudden in appearance.

Luke 14:5

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

Satan wants to catch us off guard.

Like the lion, they are in full strength.

The Conflict

Samson had one of three courses open.

He could run.

Non-Resistance

A conflict with a ray of hope.

Samson chose the last course.

Judges 14:6

He tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand.

As Samson fought the lion we need to stand up against Satan and fight him and his temptations.

James 4:7-8

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

I Corinthians 16:13

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

I Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Ephesians 6:1-17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

How was Samson able to overcome?

Judges 14:6

And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him.

As the Lord helped Samson in his battle, He will help us in our battle.

He supplies us with the armor.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

God encourages us with His presence and gives us
grace to cope.

Hebrews 13:5-6

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

II Corinthians 12:8-10

Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

We have this promise from God.

I Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Samson won with ease.

Temptations are easily overcome if we trust in the Lord and exert ourselves.

Psalms 37:3-5

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.

We should remember what Paul said:

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Samson Was Rewarded For His Victory.

Judges 14 :8-9

After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion. He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating.

There is always a reward for the winner.

I Corinthians 9:25-26

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Revelation 2:7

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Revelation 3:21

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Concerning the reward of Samson, we can say two things:

It was delayed.

Judges 14:8
“After some time...”

Many think that Samson got the honey about a year after the victory.

There is always a period of many days between the seed-time and the harvest.

In both the physical harvest and the spiritual harvest.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

II Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

How did Paul know he was going to receive the crown of life?

II Timothy 4:6-7

For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Jesus is our example.

Hebrews 12:3

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

The second thing we notice is that it was shared.

Judges 14:9

When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate.

When we overcome the world will notice.

We can tell them that we only accomplished it through Jesus Christ.

Paul knew the victory would only come through
Christ.

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Even fighting and winning against those spiritual lions.

Jesus met the roaring lion.

He was tempted in all points like we are.

He overcame in all points.

Hebrews 2:17-18

Therefore He had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

With His help we will conquer.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

ARE YOU
WILLING TO
TRUST
IN THE LORD
AND
CONQUER?