

Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

February 7-13: Read Judges 16 & 1 Samuel 3 & Gospel of John 17

Judges 16

The second judge we will read about is Samson the strong one. It's the famous story of Samson and Delilah. Unlike Gideon, people expected greatness out of Samson. He was a born leader. But he failed. And that teaches us much.

Further Study & Discussion

- The chapter opens with Samson's carefree lifestyle (v.1-3). It's an image of a man who knows he's special. And so with carelessness, he uses his power to defeat his enemies. We have many stories of leaders who fall due to their arrogance and trusting in the self rather than God. Talk about this.
- Most Bible teachers refer to Delilah as the wicked one. But perhaps Delilah was an unwilling victim between the fight between two forces. Samson fell in love with her. And the rulers of the Philistines make her an offer she can't refuse. Consider this scenario and read it once more. Does Delilah invite your sympathy? Explain why or why not.
- Is the power really in Samson's hair? The answer is obviously NO. Samson's hair began to grow back (v.22), but it wasn't until after Samson prayed that he regained his strength. Talk about one thing that you rely on as your strength and confess to God that your real strength should be on God.

1 Samuel 3

Twelve tribes joined to become a nation. And Samuel was used by God to smooth the transition. His strength was his sensitivity to hear God. This is his story.

- Verse 1 opens with a line, "In those days the word of the Lord was rare." But the religion was still active and Samuel was serving under a priest named Eli. There was active worship going on and people came to pray and seek God. So, what does this mean for them and for us today?
- How did priest Eli contribute to the people's failure to hear God (v.11-14)?

John 17

Bible teachers say that this chapter contains the words Jesus prayed at Gethsemane. Jesus prayed for the disciples and for the Church.

Further Study & Discussion

- What did Jesus worry about with his disciples (v.11-19)?
- And what did Jesus worry about with the church (v.20-26)? Did his worry become a reality – in what way?
- How can we be united as a Body of Christ? And what is the benefit of that?