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30. nov - mail 10, 79 - AM
5. nov - June 5, 83 P.M.

SAMSON'S FOXES

Judges 15

INTRODUCTION:

We discussed Samson's Riddle, that ["]out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." And how this was solved when he told it to his wife at Timnath. And relayed it on to the Philistines, who in turn told Samson. And Samson went to Askelon and slew 30 men. And got their shirts and their garments and gave them to these men.

I. SAMSON'S RETURN TO HIS WIFE - V. 1-3

He left with displeasure after she betrayed him about his riddle. And it seems that some months or some weeks passed by before Samson returned.

His parents were not happy about his marriage. If he had married in the Lord, they would have rejoiced. But it brought sorrow when he married outside the Lord.

He received a cool reception. He came bringing a kid wanting to go to his wife's apartment. Today, we would say he brought a box of candy or a bunch of flowers. He wanted to go and see his wife and be reconciled unto her. It was just a customary present that he brought, to create a good feeling. He was willing to give and forget the past.

V. 2 He was (refused) the opportunity. Her father met him and said, first, he forbade him to come near. He was angry at what Samson had done to the Philistines.

Second, he wanted to passify Samson and offered the younger sister, in her place. Lev. 28:18. So he married one and a few days later, the man is willing to give him another one of his daughters. Take her.

Samson scorned this proposal. Now this tells us about the unprincipled ideas of the Philistines. It was a bad bargain - worse than Laban made with Jacob. The marriage tie was broken very easily, and where there is no God - there is no conscience.

V. ③ - Samson said concerning them, now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.

II. THE REVENGE SAMSON TOOK 4-5

While he was in this neighborhood and he had been treated this way by his wife and father-in-law. He had a feeling that the whole race was against him. And the words which he uses are words of a declaration of war.

V. ④ - Note the method of his revenge. He says that he went out and snared 300 foxes. Or the same word is used, jackal. And jackals traveled in packs or troops. And they frequent the vineyards.

Samson being acquainted with this had no problem in snaring 300 foxes. Now the stealing of his wife was the occasion for this raid which he is getting ready for.

V. 4 - He fought the battle alone - he did not have 300 men like Gideon. He only had 300 foxes, beasts - the animals of the forest to assist him in his search. Now the act of slaying 30 men at Askelon created a great sensation.

He needed these animals because he wanted to cover several miles, at once, and he started in one spot. He took these 150 pairs to start them at once. These swift footed creatures, who would be frightened. He tied a pair of tails together. And then he tied a torch and lighted that torch and these frightened foxes with firey torches, maddened with pain, running like the wind through the half withered grain, setting fire in all directions. They would head for the shocks of wheat. They ran through the standing crops. They went in among the vineyards. And soon there was a wide spread fire.

What a sight of fire works. Fire here, there, everywhere. Sparks were flying for 25-30 miles. Fire in many places at once.

There was no way to stop this fire.

Samson found no Israelites who had courage enough to come down and help him with the fire. But he uses the foxes.

His exploits - he never makes use of a person, a servant, a slave or a soldier. And the foxes waste the dry shocks.

Now naturally they would run forward, and run to cover. And they would get in the standing corn. They chased across the fields that were ripe. The bushy tails of the foxes would make it easy to get them tied together, and also to get

the firebrand supported

What a fox hunt - 700 dead Buckets - not lying. Exaggeration - One Preacher - Deacon discussed - Contrite - Agreed - Low Whistle "Sign Cool it" - Brr - Puck - Samson tying tails - Foxes together - Field fire.

It is to be remembered there is no interruption to the running across the fields. They would go through the hedges and leap the walls. And they went over a vast territory of from 20-30 miles.

Those Foxes had Long Tales - Would it Believe 30' long - Whistle Picked up - Come to think of it - were over 20' long - I don't think I may have been about 10' long - Exaggerated - Now you can whistle your head off - I'm Not going to cut the Tales off another Fox!

III. THE RESULTS OF THE FOXES. 6-20

V. 6 - We read that the Philistines burned Samson's wife and her father in his home with fire. This was the revenge they took out upon them to do justice. They destroyed his relatives. They were afraid of the might of Samson.

If we go back to Chapter 14 - Verse 15, we read they threaten Samson's wife to get the riddle out of her. They would burn her and her father's house with fire. This is the very thing that happened.

Burning was among the Jew's punishment for adultery and the sins of impurity. Gen. 38:24, Lev. 20:14, Lev. 21:9. Thus the fate that Samson's wife wished to avoid, by proving false to her husband, this had come down upon her head.

V. 7-8 - Tells how Samson smoked the Philistines and rendered them helpless.

Next Sampson pursued by the Philistines.

V. 9 - The Philistines went up against Judah and spread themselves in Lehi.

V. 10 - The men of Judah wanted to know why they had come to fight against them. They said because of Samson - he destroyed our harvest.

Samson was at Etam. The place of the rock. He had felt himself safe there and this is where he had gone to dwell.

V. 11 - (3,000 men) of Judah went up to Samson, and said you know the Philistines are rulers over us. And what you have done has brought the enemy against us.

V. 12 - They talk him into letting them bind him and delivering him into the hands of the Philistines.

V. 13 - He meekly submits to them and they bind him with new cords and they came to Lehi.

V. 14 - They delivered him to the hands of the enemy with the customary shout. This awakened power in Samson.

"
The spirit of the Lord came upon him."
"

First, he is (clear of his bonds.) The Bible says that the cords melted as though they were burnt with fire, and fell loose from his hands.

2/9 A (great destruction) among the Philistines - he found (a new jawbone of an ass.) He took it and slew a thousand men thereby. He was poorly armed as a weapon goes.

But as he falls upon them they are terrorized with terror. They neither have the power to flee and he seizes it as though it were a sword. He mowed down the crowd. And a thousand men fall, never more to rise.

I Chron. 11:11, one of David's worthy's slained 300, but he had a spear.

2 Sam. 23:10, another slew until his hand was weary and stuck to the sword.

3/20 Samson had a (foolish thing) in the world but it was an excellent power. And the might of it was of God and not of man. He was out numbered as he took this convenient weapon, the simple weapon, the successful weapon and used it.

V. 17 - When he had finished he called the name of the place Ramathlehi - the lifting up of the jawbone.

He celebrated his victory with a song. That the Philistines fell as tamely as

a donkey. And he named the place.

V. 17.

What a thing - just the jawbone. Now if somebody could find that jawbone today what an antique it would make. What a relic. People look for marble top tables and side boards, old school annuals, etc. But Samson named the name of the place after that.

V. 18 - Eternal refreshment. He was sweating, thirsty, and he was distressed because he began to pray. In this prayer, you notice, that God had given great deliverance into the hand of Samson. And now he says, shall I die for thirst. Am I going to perish. Is my body going to fall into the hands of these uncircumcised Philistines.

V. 19 - (Relief is sent) A fountain is opened. It says that God took the hollow place in the jawbone. I take it was where there was a tooth - and there came water there out. And when he had drank, his spirit came again. And he (revived) Wherefore he called the name of that place thereafter, Enhakkore, which is Lehi unto this day.

That is marvelous - suddenly there opened a spring. His spirit is revived. And the memorial for a spring of water was opened up. And he went on to judge the people of Israel for 20 years.

(n conclusion) I want to squeeze some more juice out of this chapter, of Samson and his foxes. If you have spiritual insight and discernment, you will be able to see that here is a type of Christ.

First, Samson uses fire, when he ties these foxes in pairs and sets them on fire. And they go through and render judgement upon the Philistines.

*purged soul
with fire*

John the Baptist said of Jesus, that when he comes, he will baptize you with fire. He will purge you with fire.

Second, V. 11 - Samson was bound by a band of his own people. And turned over to the enemies.

Samson was blamed for what he had done to the Philistines - even though it was best to relieve them from slavery.

He was bound and delivered to the Philistines as a prisoner.

He meekly yielded to this band to be delivered.

Think about Jesus. There came to him a band of soldiers. To take him in the Garden.

Judas, one of his own, that he had helped. Helped to identify him and turn him over to them.

They blamed Jesus for everything, even to the desecration of their temples, etc.

They bound him as a prisoner and delivered him up to Pilate.

Jesus meekly yielded as a lamb going to slaughter. This is a great contrast with Samson, who was bound and blamed, and delivered - but meekly yielded to his brethren.

Samson, V. 14 - Melted on his hands, and that nothing really could hold him at that moment. He had liberty. They were amazed with terror at this.

Jesus walked through the crowd. And when we think of the things that they tried to bind him with. Especially when they buried him in the tomb and sealed it and placed a Roman guard to be sure that the grave was not opened. And Jesus came right on out of that tomb. Came out of those grave clothes, and was set free.

Fourth, the foolish things of this world. Samson used the jawbone of an ass. A novel weapon, convenient, simple - and yet a foolish thing for a weapon to meet such a great enemy.

Jesus in comparison, we think of the Gospel to many it was foolishness to preach the Gospel. It is a foolish simple, and yet it is a successful thing. Just like that jawbone.

Henry Ford once said, people don't read the Bible enough now-a-days. He says you look around this house and you will notice the Bible in every room. He wanted to be identified as a Bible reader.

Woodrow Wilson, while President of the United States, pledged that he would read at least one chapter of the Bible every day. To make his identity known.

A church in a poor community on the coast of England was destroyed by a storm. Months later a representative of the British Admiralty came to the community, to inquire about reconstruction of the church. It was learned that the community was too poor to restore the church - the British Navy had the church rebuilt. Stating the spire of that church was on all of our charts and maps. It has long been a

landmark by which our ships steer their course. The rebuilding of the church that it might remain a landmark on the chart for ships, is indeed symbolic, of the need for a church as a symbol for life.

In this day when the Bible and the church seem to be foolishness to so many, you'd better turn back, because it is the power of the Gospel. People don't like to be told they are sinners. Neither did our parents and grandparents before us. And yet the Bible declares there is no difference - for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The Bible declares that every person on earth is a sinner. And whenever I hear someone take exception, to this, I am reminded of the story of the church officer who came to the preacher one day about sin.

He said to the preacher, we of the congregation wish you wouldn't talk quite so much or so plainly about sin. We feel that if our boys and girls hear you discuss the subject, they will all be more easily become sinners. Why don't you call it a mistake Or say that our young people are often guilty of using poor judgement But please don't talk so openly about sin.

The preacher walked over and put down a bottle of poison, from a high shelf. The bottle was plainly marked with big red letters poison, do not touch. What would you have me do, asked the minister. Do you feel it would be wise to remove this plain label. To read, peppermint. Don't you see that the milder you make the label, the more dangerous you make the poison.

Sin is plain. Old fashioned sin, the self-same sin that caused Adam's down fall. And all the suffering today. We don't need a new word for it. What we need is find out what the word we already have means.

Because all those sins are certainly prevalent in the world today and there

are multitudes of people who seem wholly ignorant to the meaning. They are mis-guided, by a short-sighted view of sin. And it stands in the way of the conversion of men and women who lack an understanding.

The old spiritual says that everybody is talking about Heaven, ain't goin there. And the same thing is true of sin. Everybody who is talking about sin doesn't have a clear realization of what it means. And so, we call it a trifle. But God calls it a tragedy. And we'll pass it off as an accident. But God declares that Hell is going to be the result. And it is a terror to shun.

Dr. Beale once gave five words for sin

Sin is first, (lawlessness) The transgression of the law of God. God established the boundary line between good and evil and man steps over that line when he fails to live up to the Ten Commandments, The Sermon on the Mount, and God's word. And every man is tempted and drawn away.

Second, the Bible describes sin as (iniquity) That is the deviation from the right. Iniquity is the inner motivation that keeps a man's eyes hidden from God. They are the wrongs that spring up. They are the corruption - within a soul.

Third, the Bible says sin is (missing the mark.) You fall short of the goal - the goal is Christ. The object, the end, and the purpose of life is to live the life of Christ. He came to lead us.

Fourth, sin is a form of (trespass) It is an intrusion upon Divine authority. It is not merely a negative thing or just the absence of love for God. Sin is the positive choice. For self instead of God.

Fifth, sin is (unbelief) And this insults the truthfulness of God. Unbelief

shuts the door to Heaven and opens it to Hell. Unbelief rejects the word of God and refuses Christ as Saviour. Sin is the penalty of death. And the soul that sinneth - it shall die. Man's only salvation is bound up in the deliverer and the preaching of the Gospel. That's why Samson is in contrast and symbolism with Jesus. He took that foolish jawbone, foolish thing in the world, and slaughtered those men of iniquity. Now God, through Jesus Christ, takes the Gospel, comes with the simplicity. It may seem foolish to some but he was nailed to the cross for your sins.

✓ V. 18 - Samson said, I thirst. I am dying of thirst. After his great victory with the Philistines.

On the cross that day when Jesus was battling Satan, and sin, and Hell - The Bible said from the cross he said, I thirst. And they set a vessel full of vinegar and they filled a sponge with vinegar and put it to his mouth. It speaks of something of the bitterness and the agony Christ went through because of sin. Think of this contrast - I thirst. Samson said, I am going to die. Jesus said, I thirst. And shortly thereafter he gave up the ghost.

As God opened up for Samson a fountain

✓ Sixth, V. 19 - We read that God opened up a fountain and he took that jawbone and out of the hollow place where there was a tooth, there came forth a fountain of water. And it was refreshing. And when Samson had taken a drink of it, his spirit revived. And he was refreshed. And Samson lived.

Jesus, when he was at the well, Sychar - and talking with the Samaritan woman he said to her, if you knew the gift of God - you would say give me to drink. And you would have asked of me to give you living water. The woman did not quite

understand what Jesus said. But Jesus said whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again from this well. But whosoever shall drink of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst. That the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into ever lasting life.

The woman said unto him, sir, give me this water that I thirst not.

There are so many (rich) contrasts here between Samson and the Lord. For example, it is repeated in Chapter 14 and 15 - the (spirit of the Lord came mightily) upon him, as he rent the lion. The spirit of the Lord came upon him as he slew the 30 men. And following the foxes, it says the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him. And the cords melted from his hands and he found the new jawbone of an ass. And brought great slaughter to the Philistines.

And when we flip over to the N. T., (Matt. 3:16, we read that when Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized of John, (the spirit of the Lord God descended like a dove) lighting upon him. And the voice in Heaven saying, this is my beloved son. Of whom I am well pleased.

And the very next verse tells us that the same spirit led him up into the wilderness. So the deliverer has the spirit of the Lord upon him. Without the spirit of the Lord Samson was kept helpless and hopeless. In your life, without the spirit of the Lord, is in vain.

In the (hallway) of an American university, there is a sign. (The purpose of the classroom is not to inform but to transform.) Now, when the spirit of the Lord comes upon you - you will be transformed. Upon his death bed (General Booth) founder of the Salvation Army was asked the secret of his life. He replied, if there be any secret in my life, it is that Jesus Christ has had everything there is of me. I have lived only to serve him.

As Samson was yielded, to the spirit of the Lord, he was a great conqueror and a great deliverer. And he brought deliverance to his people.

Today if you was to be delivered from your sins, - delivered from your fears and your guilt, then you will have to accept this deliverer. Samson, as like

Jesus was a Nazarite. Matt. 2:23.

And wouldn't it be marvelous at the end of your life you could say with Booth the secret of my life has been that in Jesus Christ I have had a deliverer from sin and I have served him.