

MY EYES DECEIVE ME
JUDGES 14-15
3-19-23

I. Lesson #1 – Samson's Eyes

~ **Samson is driven by his senses not God's Word.**

Judges 14:1-3 - *"Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines. ² Then he came up and told his father and mother, 'I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife.'³ But his father and mother said to him, 'Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?' But Samson said to his father, 'Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes.'"*

II. Lesson #2 – God's Plan

~ **God works despite our sinfulness.**

Judges 14:4 - *"His father and mother did not know that it was from the LORD, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel."*

III. Lesson #3 – Samson's True Strength

~ **Samson was weak, God was his strength.**

Judges 14:5-6 - *"Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring. ⁶ Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done."*

Judges 14:19 - *"And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house."*

Judges 15:14 - *"When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands."*

IV. Lesson #4 - Sensuality Hurts Our View of God.

~ **Samson used God as a means to an end.**

Judges 15:18-19 - *"And he was very thirsty, and he called upon the LORD and said, 'You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?' ¹⁹ And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived."*

GROWING DEEPER THIS WEEK

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. What areas of your life are governed by your "eyes"/senses?
3. Samson was "blind" to the fact that God was working through Him. Have there been times in your life that you were blind to God's working? Share with the group.
4. How have you seen the Lord working through your sin, or someone else's sin? How does that lead you to praise Him?
5. What does it say about God that He works despite our sin and weakness?
6. How does the content of our prayer reflect what we believe about God?
7. How can you use your prayer times to praise God?
8. What does your prayer life look like with your family? Your spouse? Your Community Group? How can we prioritize prayer in these arenas?
9. Why is it easy for us to only come to God when we are in crisis? How do we fight against viewing God as a "divine genie in the sky" who we only approach with our requests?