

Judges 15:1-20
Fire, Murder, Revenge, Thirst
Sermon Outline

Introduction: God not only chooses to use his people to advance his cause. He cares for us as well.

I) God cares for us

A) Samson's story thus far

Through 15.17: Used by God

15.18-19: Cared for by God

B) Meaning for us

God's grand plan never swallows us up

- Isaiah 40.15, 11: *...drop in the bucket...dust on the scales. Lambs in his arms*
- Mary: Mother of the world's Savior. Still *Mary (Luke 1.28, 30). Woman behold your son (Jn. 19.26)*
- All of us: *Hairs on our heads (Matt 10.30), Days of our lives (Psalm 139.16). Whoever drinks...(John 4.14)*

C) Take away

Look for, expect, and acknowledge hugs from God

Let hardship be a discover of his care

II) God acts alone

A) We see God's solitude in Samson's

300 jackals—no people

Hiding alone in the cave

Betrayed by his own people

B) Samson and Jesus

Parallel

Divergence

Meaning

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Itemize all the different ways that God uses Samson between Judges 14:1 and 15:17. What is new in Samson's relationship to God beginning in 15.18-19?
- 2) Look carefully at Samson's prayer in 15.18 and subsequent behavior in 15.19. What changes, if any, do you see in Samson? How sincere do you think his prayer is?
- 3) What does God do in v 19? What other stories and sayings in both the OT and the NT does this bring to mind? What does God's act tell us about God?
- 4) God manages to work 'macro' and 'micro' simultaneously. How do you see this in the life of Samson, in the life of Mary the mother of Jesus, in Isaiah 40? Spend some time thanking God for the way works weaving together the large and the small in world history and in your life.
- 5) Identify at least three 'hugs' from God (particular expressions of his care for you) in the last 24. Thank him for them.
- 6) Samson's life is parallel to Jesus' life in many ways. List as many parallels as you can find. Perhaps the most striking parallel is that both Samson and Jesus do their work alone. What is God telling us about our salvation in the loneliness of his deliverers?
- 7) There are a number of striking ways in which Samson's and Jesus' stories are not parallel. One is that their characters are so different. The other, at least when we parallel the betrayal and abandonment in *Judges 15* with the betrayal and abandonment at the end of Jesus' life, is that Samson is rescued and Jesus is not. Why the difference?