

**Series Character Matters****Passage** Judges 14:10-20; 15:1-29**Title** The Tale of Two Nazirites**Speaker:** Dave Menard 02/05/2017

**Discussion Starter:** On Sunday we learned even though Samson believed in God, knew he had a calling from God and was empowered by God his life was still dysfunctional because he was living a selfish life. In what ways has this message and study of Samson encouraged you to be more like Jesus a kingdom and people builder?

**Unequally Yoked Relationships** (Judges 14:10-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14)

- Samson was not equally yoked with his new wife. We see the willingness of Samson's Philistine wife to side with her people against Samson which shows a fundamental weakness in their marriage. She did not fulfill the idea essential to marriage of leaving one's father and mother to be joined in a one flesh relationship to their spouse (Genesis 2:24). Yet this also shows why it was wrong for Samson to marry a Philistine. Why is it impossible to build a good relationship with someone when the two are unequally yoked?
- According to 2 Corinthians 6:14. Do you think Paul's warning to Christians about being unequally yoked goes beyond marriage to a spouse? If so, where do you think we are we supposed to draw the line? What are some of the key things we see that will be missing from an unequally yoked relationship?
- How would you describe what an equally yoked marriage looks like to a son, a daughter or even to a friend who is entertaining this thought? What are some of the common mistakes people make when choosing to enter into an unequally yoked relationship.

**Pain of a Selfish Life** (Judges 14:18-20; Matthew 16:24-25)

- It is clear that God had also gifted Samson with a clever mind. Samson just wanted to have a little fun with the guys and he bets them 30 suits of clothes they could not figure out a riddle. Based on his Nazirite vow was there anything wrong or selfish about this bet? How does this apply to us as Christians?
- How does Samson react to his wife betraying him and "telling the sons of her people" the riddle? What character attributes do we see being demonstrated by Samson's reaction and how do they further his pain? According to Matthew 16:24-25 what desired character attribute does Jesus reveal to us and how would that have helped Samson in this situation?

**Samson Feels the FUTILITY of Selfish Living.** (Judges 15:1-13; Luke 6:31-32)

- Samson was called to be a leader of God's people. We learned that **Selfish Leadership** have the characteristics of being **Reactive – Ethically Sordid- Unprofitable** while **Godly Leadership** is **Proactive- Selfless- Fertile**. As Christians we are all called to be examples and leaders to others. How do we go about being a proactive godly leader?

**Selfless Leaders Build Others.** (Judges 15:14-20; John 6:38; John 6:40)

- We know that Jesus is the perfect Nazirite. When comparing Judges 15:14-20 to John 6:38, 6:40 what key differences do we see in how Samson used his power from God as compared to Jesus? What are some practical ways we can use the gifts and talents God has given to us to lead and build others?