

“Going Beyond: Samson”

Series: *.beyond*
(Part 5 of 5)

Discussion Starter: If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?

Explore: Read Luke 19:11-26.

In the parable of the ten minas (think paychecks), Jesus compares the Jewish people to the Gentiles, and at the same time warns against unreached potential and lost opportunity.

1. Why did Jesus choose to tell this parable (vs. 11)?
2. What responsibilities did the noble man give to his ten servants before leaving (vs. 12-21)? Summarize how each man handled the money they were given.
3. How would you compare the response of the king to the first two men with his response to the third man (vs. 22-26)? How were each rewarded?
4. Do you think the third man would have done things differently if he knew how the king was going to react?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. Have you ever been good at something only to look back and regret not trying harder or applying yourself more to reach your full potential? Explain.
2. Samson’s life began with a series of small compromises. How can broken promises lead to problems in families? ...at work? ...with God?
3. While Samson had supernatural physical strength, he lacked the strength to control his own behavior. How might his physical abilities have contributed to his eventual downfall? What does it mean to be controlled by the Spirit?
4. God used Samson to eventually defeat the Philistines. How might things have been different if Samson followed God without compromise?
5. Samson didn’t go as far as God wanted because he was arrogant, undisciplined, and selfish. Are there attitudes you struggle with that can destroy your spiritual growth?

Live:

As a group: Sub-group into smaller groups (guys and gals), answer the following questions, and pray for one another. Is there an area I need to be faithful? Is there an area I need to exercise more self-control? Is there an area I need to surrender to God?

On your own: Read through the story of Samson this week (Judges 13-16). Reflect on the key points from the lesson and ask yourself, “*How can the example of Samson help me to live beyond?*”

Listening Guide Notes

“*In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.*” –**Judges 17:6 (NIV)**

Not as far beyond as God wanted because...

1. He wasn’t faithful in the little things.

^[5] “*Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him.* ^[6] *The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.*”

–**Judges 14:5-6 (NIV)**

^[8] “*Some time later... he turned aside to look at the lion’s carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey,* ^[9] *which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion’s carcass.*” –**Judges 14:8-9 (NIV)**

“*...to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given.*”

–**Luke 19:26 (NLT)**

2. He had no self-control.

“*Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman.*”

–**Judges 14:1 (NIV)**

“*One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her.*” –**Judges 16:1 (NIV)**

“*Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.*” –**Judges 16:4 (NIV)**

“*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.*” –**Romans 8:9 (NIV)**

3. He only thought about himself.

^[29] “Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, ^[30] Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.”

–Judges 16:29-30 (NIV)

^[5b] “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ ^[6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” **–1 Peter 5:5-6 (NIV)**