UNLIKELY HEROES #4 SAMSON: THE COURAGE TO PRAY AGAIN

"Unlikely heroes are those who against all odds, choose to believe that God hears and answers prayer"

Hebrews 11:32 (KJV 1900)

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

BIO FOR SAMSON:

- 1. Parents: Manoah & his wife
- 2. Spouse: An unnamed Philistine woman
- 3. Offspring: No children recorded
- 4. Nationality: Israelite of the tribe of Dan
- 5. Occupation: Judged Israel for 20 years
- 6. Scriptural Setting: Judges 13-16

INTERESTING FACTS:

- 1. His birth was announced by the Angel of the Lord.
- 2. He had a Nazirite Vow from birth.
 - a. Touch nothing dead
 - b. Abstain from wine
 - c. Leave his hair uncut
- 3. He is known for his supernatural strength.
- 4. Samson's name means strength or daring.
- 5. Delilah's name means weakness or seduction. She was Samson's weakness.

NOTABLE EVENTS IN HIS LIFE:

- 1. Joshua 2:1-2 His birth is announced by the Angel of the Lord.
- 2. Joshua 2:3-6 He marries a Philistine woman against his parent's wishes.
- 3. Judges 15:4-5 He catches 300 foxes, ties them together, and sets a field on fire.
- 4. Judges 15:14-15 He kills a thousand Philistines with the jaw of a donkey.
- 5. Judges 6:4-20 He is deceived by Delilah and God's spirit departs from him.
- 6. Judges 16:21-24 He is captured, blinded and made a slave.
- 7. Judges 16:30 He prays for God to use him yet again. Kills more enemies in his death than he did in his life.

NOTABLE NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES:

1. Hebrews 11:32 - And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

TAKE HOME STUDY QUESTIONS:

- 1. What was the purpose of Samson's birth? Did Samson live with that purpose in mind? (Judges 13:5)
- 2. What were Samson's primary character flaws? How did he make himself vulnerable to temptation?
- 3. What was the cost of Samson's compromise? List as many as you can. (Judges 16:17-21)
- 4. Read Judges 16:20-22. Samson took for granted that God would always be with him no matter how he acted. How could the Lord depart and Samson not know it? What lesson does it teach us in our own lives?
- 5. Read Judges 16:28-30. How was Samson's final prayer different from the way he lived his life?
- 6. It was an act of faith for Samson to pray after failing so terribly. Why do we find it so hard to pray when we have failed and why is it such as act of faith?
- 7. Read Judges 16:28. Finally, at the end of Samson's life he cried out to God. Read Hebrews 11:32. Samson is mentioned for his faith. What can you learn about God and His desire to use you despite your mistakes?

ADDITIONAL NOTES: