


# The Flawed Life of Samson

## Part 1 Broken Vow, Broken Life

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

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**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a “transforming church”. We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent, action. I Timothy 4:7 instructs you to “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” Since “**Talking Points, Walking Points**” is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to “dive deep” too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled “**Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time**”, are perfect for private reflection.

## Questions for Reflection

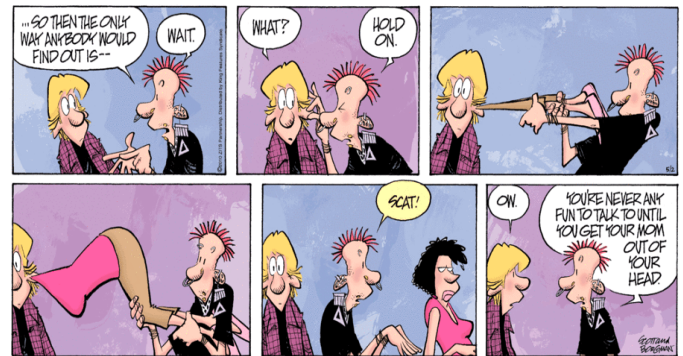
- We chuckle at comics such as this...  
...but not at the **outcome** of Samson's life.

**Why don't we believe** that foolish living will inevitably lead to loss (in this life and the next)?

What light do the following passages shed on this:  
Proverbs 1:7 & 32; 10:23; 13:20; 14:7-9; 17:12

### ZITS

Sunday, May 2, 2010



- Do you agree or disagree** with the following statement: “God designed us so that our beliefs are to guide and drive our behavior, but when we disobey our conscience long enough, our behavior begins to drive our beliefs—and that is a dangerous place to be in.” —and **why**?
- Pastor Doug observed: “Denying yourself something for **spiritual** reasons—because you desire something **better**—can be an amazing way that God works in your life.” **Why** do you think that is?

What do you think currently is standing in the way  
of **more** spiritual growth in your life?

**You can learn to honor and obey God.**  
Let a biblical counselor help!  
[counseling@tcc.org](mailto:counseling@tcc.org)

## Application-Challenge

In order to become the person God wants you to be, surrender to whatever he is telling you to do.

**Take One Step:** What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



## Sermon Summary

The story of Samson is painful because there is a gap between what could have been, and how they actually ended up. Samson was consecrated to God through something called the “Nazirite vow”, which is explained in Numbers 6:1-8. The Nazirite vow involved: (1) abstinence from anything that comes from a grape, (2) no contact with dead bodies, and (3) no haircuts. People would take this vow for the same reason that people today might enter into a time of fasting and prayer: because they wanted some kind of spiritual breakthrough. They were desperate for God's help or direction, and so they would enter into a time of consecration which usually lasted for 30 days. Samson, however, involuntarily was a life-long Nazirite resulting from vows his parents made on his behalf (Judges 13:5).

Samson, called a “judge”, was raised up by God to deliver his people from an oppressor (Philistines in the case of Samson). At some point in Samson's life the Spirit of God began to prompt him to get about his God appointed life's work. But Samson insisted on doing what he wanted, rather than serving God. He began by ignoring God's prohibition about marrying someone outside his faith, and he's failing to honor and obey his parents (Deuteronomy 7:3-4). Next, Samson ignored the prohibition of a Nazirite touching the dead (Judges 14:5-9) and drinking wine (14:10). The downward spiral continues, but Samson doesn't see the spiritual implications of what's going on.

Later in Israel's history, David would fight the Philistines for God's glory, but not Samson: he gets into a fight because he is pursuing a forbidden relationship with a Philistine woman. Still, in Judges 14:19 we read that Samson was able to accomplish his feats because the “Spirit of the Lord” came upon him. This is a strange story. There is a tension here. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and then he did something he ought not do. How are we to understand that? The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Samson and says, “Don't go this way! Don't violate your vows! This is not what I want you to do!” And time and time again, Samson ignores the voice of God, and does whatever he pleases. So, the story of Samson is not a story about incredible strength, but rather about incredible weakness. It is a story about a man who is going to lose everything because he is disobedient to God. He ignores the promptings of God's Spirit, and does just what he wants to do. He obeys his lusts. We have all done that, haven't we? (Galatians 5:16,18,25).

Life is so much better when we respond to God's Spirit. When we sense he is saying “No, don't go that way!” We put on the brakes. When we sense him saying, “Go and do this or that,” we obey him. Life is better that way. That is the route to God's blessing. But we can resist the Holy Spirit, can't we? And if we persist in our resistance, our consciences become dulled, even seared, so that we don't even hear Him speaking to our spirits anymore. Like Samson, we are called to live a consecrated life (Ephesians 4:1-3). The problem with sin isn't just that you do bad, selfish, unloving things, it's that you fail to do good things, selfless things, loving things. It keeps you from living up to the standard that God calls us to live.

And it's not just that we do bad things; we also fail to do and be all that God desires (Galatians 5:22-23). But if we keep ignoring our consciences, there may come a day where your heart becomes so hard that you're not attuned to it anymore. And that is a dangerous place to be. At that point, our behavior will begin to drive our beliefs. You have been designed by God in such a way that your beliefs should guide and drive your behavior. A good litmus test just to ask yourself every once in a while, is: “Am I engaged in a behavior currently that two months ago, two years ago, ten years ago I would have said unequivocally was wrong?” It could be anything—a living arrangement, an addiction, or a pattern of lying. If the answer is “yes”, then you are a really good candidate not to repeat Samson's mistakes. If so, let TCC's Biblical counseling ministry help you.

The story of Samson, Israel's judge, ends tragically (16:28-30)—but Jesus, our “Better Judge” succeeds where Samson failed. Jesus honored God when tempted. Jesus dies for his enemies, rather than killing them. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, he can say, “You are not under the law of condemnation, you are under the Law of Grace.” And if you choose, you can say, “God, I don't want to ignore you any longer. I want to surrender to what you are telling me to do. I want to become the person that you want me to become.”

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.  
We can use it to explore the conscience and genuine repentance...

**Monday**— Micah 6:6-8

**Tuesday**— 1 Samuel 15:1-9

**Wednesday**— 1 Samuel 15:10-23

**Thursday**— 1 Samuel 15:24-35

**Friday**— Matthew 27:3-5

**Saturday**— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Judges 15:15-20.

Need blank copies for doing more  
"Five Question Bible Study"?  
e-mail: [Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com](mailto:Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com)

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?