



Daily Verse and Comment

Hebrews 11:32-34

(32) Now what more can I say? For time would fail me to relate *the accounts* of Gideon, Barak also, and Samson and Jephthah, David also, and Samuel, and the prophets; (33) Who by faith were victorious over kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, shut *the* mouths of lions, (34) Quenched *the* fury of fire, escaped *the* edge of *the* sword, were strengthened from weakness, became mighty in war, *and* turned back the armies of foreigners.

A Faithful Version

In a way, Samson was a narcissist. From his birth, he was the "special boy," a miracle child. His parents likely doted on him because of this miraculous beginning. Scripture tells us that his parents caved to his every desire, and despite this, he does not treat them with a great deal of respect. For example, when he desires to marry, he tells his father, "Give me that Philistine girl as my wife!" He did not entreat or ask: "Dad, I'd like to go down to Timnah and see this woman. Do you think this is good? Do you think you could please arrange it for me?" No, it was, "Get me this woman!"

But behind the scenes, [God](#) was working with him. Even so, Samson's attitude throughout most of his judgeship was quite selfish. His pursuit of his carnal desires is a case in point. He pigheadedly and foolishly blundered into situations that a little wiser person, one less sure of himself, would have approached a bit more cautiously. Also, in many of these situations, Samson is proud, touchy, quick to anger, and swift to knock others on the head with the jawbone of an ass.

Only at the very end of his life, when he volunteers to sacrifice himself to gain a victory for Israel—*after* being severely humbled by blinding, slavery, and mockery of the Philistines—does he make a real breakthrough. Then he dies.

Finally, God had brought him to the point where he said, "God, if you will it, I will do what needs to be done to give Israel a victory." God says, "That is the attitude I was looking for all along. Go!"

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

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