

SERMON STUDY NOTES

30th May 2021

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Temptation: Samson

Readings Judges 17. Proverbs 7

1. Many Christians live in disobedience to many of King Jesus' commands. They do whatever they want, when & where they want to... Often thinking it's OK because everyone else does it. **Give some examples of the areas and ways in which this happens.**
2. It's a familiar story: a successful man meets a younger woman who flatters him. She's attracted by his position & power. What starts as a friendship ends up as an affair. The secret comes to the light and the implosion starts. Then, he slips into obscurity, his success is eclipsed by his very human failure. **This scenario happens time and time again, usually with ugly consequences and long term regret. Discuss**
3. 1 Cor 10:12-13 *And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.* Instead of avoiding temptation people flirt with it: people with alcohol problems still visit bars. People who struggle with shopping addictions, still visit the mall. **Give some other examples. Share a situation that has affected your family.**
4. Not giving God His proper place in our lives, gives place to the devil by default. It's like putting water in a car's fuel tank because the price of petrol goes up. We may have a flash car with a powerful engine: but the car won't go. These situations have costly consequences. What is the biblical way of dealing with them?

5. Judges 16: The Philistines were enemies of the Israelites. They came to Delilah...They wanted her to seduce Samson into revealing the secret of his strength.
On 3 occasions Samson, teased Delilah about the reason behind his strength. Read the passage and see how Samson is gets closer & closer to revealing the source of his strength...
6. Unless our hearts & our minds are tuned in to the HS... when we are tempted we only hear our fleshly thoughts & desires. Samson tried to do things in his own strength, He said "*I will go out, I will do this*". How many times have people you know said "*this time it will be different?*" People say to themselves "*I won't go too far*": *I won't cross a certain line*. We dabble in those things that are highly likely to hurt us. We have the Samson syndrome & eventually get caught out. Anyone with a story to tell?
7. In Proverbs 7 there's a story of a young man's encounter with an adulteress. Read it and discuss it. Note the progression and the end result.
8. The successful way forward is to surrender to Gods love and to say 'yes' to the Holy Spirit each moment. We also need to be aware of our weaknesses and wary of *that roaring lion who is seeking to devour us*. Keep away from pride, and be aware of God's ability to save us. Read 2 Tim 2:19-22 and pray for each other.