



SAMSON: 10 TESTS FOR REAL MEN (PART 1)

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Welcome to real men we're so glad to see you guys it's such an honor to have you hey if you're one of the new guys can you raise a hand so we can just welcome you and thank you for joining us you made a good decision gentlemen here at real men we build men up to bless women and children I love you with all my heart I'm so proud of you I'm so excited for you I have great expectation of what God has for you and we're here because you matter your marriage matters your family matters your kids matter your grandkids matter your business matters your ministry matters and I don't care what they have to say out there this is the Father's House you're his sons and it's an honor to see you man thank you for joining us if we've not met my name is Mark one of the pastors here I get to yell at you I love that thank you for letting me yell at you and thank you to all the guys who join us online through the week I'll just tell you this week was wild we broadcast a bunch of men's talks total reach and Impressions 4 million online this week men tuning in to hear Bible the teaching cuz our world has nothing to add to the life of a man our world has nothing to say to improve a man but God's word speaks directly from the Father's Heart to his son's and we want to see men activated and we want to see men filled with the spirit of God and we want to see men making a difference in their place of influence and you guys are such a blessing I look forward to seeing you every week I'm here because you matter you matter to me and I love you with my entire heart and it means the world to me that you would join us love you I love you and I appreciate you so if you're new or in a new sermon series looking in a Old Testament book of the Bible called judges we're looking at a guy named Samson sermons on the weekend men's talks midweek study guide to help you out here's Samson he's like the Hulk of the Old Testament big strong dude he's the he's like a gym bro he's like a roid guy a lot of tattoos tank top protein shake stripper girlfriends okay and if you're that guy welcome but but you need some freaking help you know so so he he's this guy who's who's really strong physically but he's very very weak morally and spiritually and many many men are like that and this is the counterfeit of masculinity the counterfeit of masculinity is that it's all about the outside not on the inside well the truth is uh it really takes courage to cultivate character and integrity and love for God and self-control so we're going to look at the life of Samson over the course of two weeks in our time together and I'm going to look at 10 different tests that he took and that all men take and we're going to use him as a case study one of the strongest men in the history of the Bible But ultimately too as you will see one of the weakest men in the history of the Bible and we're we're going to look at his test pass and fail we're going to use them as an example to evaluate ourselves we good to go you guys ready to go all right so you can think about this for yourself test number one salvation judges 13:5 the spirit of the Lord began to stir him Samson so it says when he was a little boy the Holy Spirit came upon him uh later in the New Testament looking back at his life it says for time would fail me to tell of Gideon Barack Samson he made the list of the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 jeepa of David and Samuel and the prophets who through faith conquered kingdoms and forced Justice to obtain promises stopped the mouths of lions quenched the power of fire escaped the edge of the sword were made strong out of weakness became Mighty in war and put for armies to flight here's what he's saying Samson was a Believer he got saved but he didn't grow God Saves you but you you need to work with God to grow you and so salvation is a gift that God gives okay let me tell you how this works and some of you don't know and we love you and we're glad to have you you're a sinner by nature and choice I'm a sinner by nature and choice God is Holy righteous and good our sin has separated us from that God other religions teach that we do something to go up to that God good works reincarnation whatever the case may be Christianity alone teaches we don't go up to God he comes down to us that we don't save ourselves that we have a savior in his name is Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ lived the life that no man has lived the life without sin Jesus Christ went to the Cross substituted himself and died in our place for our sins he reconciles us to God and he removes the sin that separates us from God then he is buried 3 days later he raises from the dead he conquers Satan sin death hell and the wrath of God he ascends into heaven let me tell you this Jesus is alive right now Jesus is high and exalted right now Jesus is being worshiped in glory right now Jesus is ruling and reigning right now and there will be a day that Jesus returns and he comes not in humility but in glory he will come to defeat the Nations he will come to denounce evil and he will come to destroy Satan and demons and until that day comes there is an opportunity of Salvation that is where we can turn from sin and trust in him and if we do we are saved by the grace of God through the work of Jesus Christ it's nothing that we earn it's something that we receive and he has earned my question to you is are you saved do you know Jesus are you a Christian if not that's why you're here and your table lead wants to help you make the most important decision you will ever make the decision to follow Jesus Christ salvation is a gift but for a man to grow he needs to then put some effort into his life with God God works for you through the cross and resurrection of Jesus God works in you to save you and then God works through you but you need to work out your salvation the Bible says with fear and tremor Samson is a painful example of a Christian man who isn't growing he's a Christian man but he's not maturing some of you this would be your case you're going to heaven but you're living like hell that's Samson so he passed his salvation test test number two sensitivity to the Holy Spirit judges 16:20 the Philistines are upon you Samson and he awoke from his sleep and said I will go out as at other times and shake myself free here's the line that is so telling but he did not know that the Lord had left him let me say this to be a Christian is to have the powerful presence of the person of the holy spirit in your life okay and you and I are supposed to cultivate a sensitivity to the holy spirit is he speaking to me is he leading me is he guiding me is he convicting me and the more you are sensitive to the Holy Spirit the more you will mature and grow before you sin the holy spirit will speak to you and be like oh nope he just said no my conscience said no he reminded me of a scripture that forbids me from this action what can happen over time is a man grows so insensitive to the holy spirit that he doesn't even acknowledge he's not even aware that he's living without the presence of God and what Samson is saying here is that though the Holy Spirit had empowered him repeatedly through the course of his life the Holy Spirit left him and so he woke up and he thought well I'll just have the strength and the power that I always have and he didn't even know that the spirit of God had left him um I feel inclined in the Holy Spirit to share something um the Holy Spirit reminds me of something in the New Testament it talks about grieving quenching and resisting the Holy Spirit um quenching is like the holy spirit is trying to ignite a passionate flame in your life for God and Holiness and the things of God and you're putting water on that fire you're quenching it resisting it is God is speaking to you but you're you're fighting him and some of you men know exactly what I'm talking about and and and the Holy Spirit reminds me in the book of Ephesians it says don't grieve the Holy Spirit what Samson is doing here is all three is grieving quenching and resisting the Holy Spirit and he's done it for so long that when the holy spirit says I'm G to I'm going to exit your life Samson doesn't even recognize the absence let me say for any man who becomes so insensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit we are in a dangerous place if we arrive at that place and and the Holy Spirit reminds me in Ephesians it says don't grieve the spirit of God the Holy Spirit um in the original Greek text that word grieve Can it can actually be translated trauma think of this in our day there's a lot of discussion about trauma things being done to people that are so painful and so horrendous that it marks them or breaks them we call that trauma when you grieve the

holy spirit it's like inflicting trauma on him um Let me let me say it this way kind of this is this is what I'm seeing how many of you have got a son or a grandson okay I've got both got sons and grandsons it's awesome it's awesome I love that right how many of you how many of you men you love your son you love your grandson amen and they're they're doing some things that are going to be very harmful and self-destructive for them and so with great affection you're speaking of you're like please don't do that please don't do that you're going to hurt yourself that's a terrible decision you're going to wreck your life you're going to you're going to cause pain for Generations you're just pleading please don't and they keep doing it over and over and over and you keep pleading over and over and over and they keep hurting themselves and self-destructing how do you feel feels like trauma the spirit of God loves you so much that when you hurt yourself it hurts him when you break yourself it breaks him see when we sin we don't just break God's laws we break God's heart just like as a father if you're raising a son or a grandson and they defy you and then they damage themselves not only are they hurting themselves they're hurting you because you love them the Holy Spirit reminds me in the days of Noah it says that everyone did Evil only and continually in the sight of God and it says that they broke God's heart see the the heart of God it's a Father's Heart his is a Father's Heart and he looks at his sons he's like Sons I love you I know I know exactly what a Destiny for you should be I know what will hurt you and damage you and break you so listen to me because I'm here to help and his name is the holy spirit he is the voice of God and when we when we grieve quench resist the spirit of God we can do that for so long that as men we reach a point you're like man what used to bother me doesn't bother me anymore what used to convict me doesn't convict me anymore what I used to feel ashamed of I'm not embarrassed by anymore if any of that is true in your life and I love you I'm not here to shame you I'm here to I'm here to help you if right now the holy spirit is speaking to any of you men about something in your life hey son I've been talking about this for a long time son this used to bother you and it doesn't bother you anymore you've gotten hardened toward the things of truth that's where Samson arrived let me say this you can't lose your salvation but you can lose your anointing you can't lose your salvation but you can lose a sensitivity to the presence of God in your life and so on this occasion tragically horrifically test number two sensitivity of the Holy Spirit does does Samson pass or fail he failed he fails number three personal Holiness you're saved by grace and then you grow by submitting to the grace of God to transform your life before we get into the scripture let me just explain this God loves you so much if you're here and you're not a Christian or you're watching online God loves you so much he'll take you just like you are but God loves you so much he can't let you stay like you are this is like a dad who adopts a kid he's like I love you kids got a lot of issues but I'm going to adopt the kid and then I'm going to Father them I'm going to take them where they are but I love them so much I can't keep them where they are I need them to mature and grow okay that's personal Holiness and Holiness is for a man it's like father like son so like God's my father I'm his son personal Holiness is becoming like father like son the son but becoming more like the father so we look at Samson and part of the misery in his life is his lack of commitment to personal Holiness let's look at this judges 137 the child Samson and this was a prophetic promise given in judges 17 from Jesus Christ who came down from heaven the child shall shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death let me let me just explain this so Jesus came down and he said there's going to be a Nazarite vow on the life of Samson from womb to tomb okay and this is a personal call to Holiness and and let me say this every one of God's sons has a personal call to Holiness okay and and and and the vows that God gives us are found in the scriptures right this is where God speaks about our money and our marriage and our sexuality

and our tempers and our attitudes and our words and our truthfulness this the word of God either plainly or principally speaks to a man about everything in his life and the Nazarite vow I've got it in the study guide it's back in Numbers Chapter 6 and it basically was four things number one no alcohol number two no unclean Foods number three no haircuts and number four no touching of dead bodies or corpses how did he do oh0 for four not just once over and over and over he keeps violating God's commitment that he should have accepted to pursue personal Holiness let me say this I feel inclined in the spirit to say this a verbal process a lot of men so just hang in there if you're new how many of you men watch the news and you just get frustrated and angry and upset by all of the evil and nonsense and foolishness in the world okay okay okay what I would say is do we get equally upset about the evil nonsense and foolishness in our life okay because ultimately what we tend to do as men we tend to use the word of God to quote a friend of mine like binoculars to look at everything that's wrong in the world rather than a mirror to see what's wrong in our life now I'll be honest with you guys it's okay to have frustration anger judgment toward our fallen sick perverted culture if we're first examining ourselves to see if we're part of the problem or the solution and too many Christian men today um we spend our time ranting about politics rather than repenting of our sin okay and this commitment to personal Holiness is am I living as a son of my father am I sensitive to the power and presence of the person of the Holy Spirit am I making moral character progress am I improving as the son of my father okay he knew what God commanded him to do and he just doesn't make any progress now how many of you don't shout out names but how many of you you know a guy you're like I think he's a Christian but the dude just doesn't improve change repent or grow that's Samson I'll show it to you as well put that slide back up please judges 141 145 147 1410 1419 they all say the same thing he quote unquote went down as you read and read the four chapters that pertain to his life judges 1314 15:16 you'll see over and over and over he went down how many times do you think it says he went up zero zero the only way you go up is you repent of sin and have a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit if you don't repent of sin and you don't have a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit you only go down in The Narrative of Samson every time he goes down physically he's also going to down morally and spiritually my question to you men would be this let me ask you two questions so the culture in which we live is it going up or is it going down it's going down and so here's what God wants for you he wants you to go up not down you're not the world you're the church you're not the sons of the devil you're the sons of God and as the world goes down God wants you to go up God wants you in a year to be a better version of you than the one we meet today God wants you in 10 years to be a better version of the man that God intends you to be than the man you are today the Christian Life should be one of constant Pursuit and growth repentance of sin sensitivity to the spirit commitment to personal Holiness and I want to say this as well I want to honor the older men here most older men reach a point where they know enough verses and they've walked with God long enough that they're willing to just sort of settle and to remain at that level for the remainder of their life when you find older men who are still learning still repenting still growing still climbing those men are exemplary we have far too few of those men if you have older men around your table that are still learning growing and repenting they're maturing they're growing in personal Holiness two things I want you to do when we get our time around the table I want you to thank them and honor them and I want you to listen to them you younger guys you need to know if there's a guy who's been climbing for 50 years and you're just starting draft behind that guy okay and by older guys I mean guys older than me I'm still a young guy so um test number four um what is test Number Four Women ah uh a couple things I'll say uh we believe in men and women yeah we do um and uh and we think women are attractive and

men aren't amen even if you're not a Christian you're like finally a point I can thoroughly get behind this is true okay so here's what I would say there are there are only two men that don't struggle with women porn and sex okay dead men and Liars okay those are the only two men that don't struggle okay if you're a heterosexual man one of the constant tests in your life is going to be women true or false true okay so here are the women in Samson's life Judges 13 is mom so for those of you here this week or maybe red ahead uh let's just do a little interactive time tell me a little bit about Samson's mom what's that bar she was Barren no name no name so she's pretty humble we don't even know who she is like if it was me it'd be like hey hey hey put my name in there you know like she's unnamed so she's pretty humble she's Barren smart she's smart wise she's wiser than her husband how many of you are like I understand right uh she loves the Lord she's a Believer she's sensitive to the spirit she's a worshipper of God he's got a great mom true she's great does he does he pursue women like his mom no yeah he totally goes for the jezebel and chicks Time After Time so Samson's problem is he's strong on the outside he's weak on the inside when he goes to pick a woman he only looks at the outside he doesn't look at the inside he's like oh she's hot well so as hell like you know like you know just cuz she could do Circus Sol if she doesn't pray it's not a good girl you know probably shouldn't have said that but you know uh somebody go like okay so anyways so yeah uh so at the end of the day you know at the end of the day if uh if he's got a good mom and the the first relationship that he has with a woman is his mother and his mother is this godly woman but he doesn't pick a woman like his mother and he doesn't pick any woman that actually worships the same God as his mother okay and so let me say this you know if you have how many of you guys you had a you had a decent mom right praise God for that and don't overlook the fact that if God gave you a decent mother you want to have your children be able to say that they had a decent mother so then there's three other women that show up in his life uh judges 14 through 152 he marries a Philistine let me summarize it we'll get into it this week is Samson supposed to marry a Philistine no they're unbelievers not supposed to marry an unbeliever because the goal of marriage is to have quote Godly Offspring that's what the Bible says so if you worship two different gods what you have is division division means two visions it's hard enough to be married to an unbeliever the highest divorce rates are between two people who practice different religions it's a fact and then if you add children how difficult is it to raise a child when you have two different religions and gods it's impossible okay so don't just be thinking about a good time be thinking about a good Legacy for you guys who are single don't just think about she's good in bed think what will my sons think a woman should be like and what will my daughters think they should be like okay and so ultimately what he does he marries an unbeliever here's what he says in judges 14 he says uh she looks good in my eyes but she doesn't look good in God's eyes his dad says to Samson paraphrasing um that woman is not a Believer you're not supposed to marry an unbeliever what does Samson say she looks great that's all I care about okay it's interesting you know we live in a day when it's all about a woman's body or her face but not her soul or her character um and so his father caves his father is passive when he should be active and his father says well son if you want to marry her I'll go arrange the marriage should his father have said no should have said no son God says no so I say no his dad's a bit passive Samson marries her shouldn't have and then you know what he does he abandons her he just disappears for an extended period of Time chapter 15 he comes back we don't know how long he's gone for a long time he goes and knocks on her dad's house he just literally vanished he was a he was an absent husband knocked on the door the dad opens the door here's Samson he's like where's my wife so I can go into her how many of you have you're a dad you're like that is not a friendly welcome

that's literally what he says the dad is scared of him cuz he's such a violent dangerous giant man the dad says well she married another guy we did we thought you abandoned her you weren't coming back so then he gets angry but he's the one who destructed the marriage okay third woman gets worse The Prostitute at Gaza so the people that Samson was fighting are some of the descendants that are being fought in Israel today and today there's still a fight in Gaza judges 16:1 so Samson now he's known he's the man of God everybody knows he's the judge he's the man of God plus you know he walks around everybody's scared of him he comes he's a bit of a wrecking bowl of a man so he walks into a Philistine Town everybody oh there's Samson where does Samson go the brothel just walks right into the brothel can you imagine this I mean this is unbelievable he has he has no sensitivity to the Holy Spirit at this moment at all we just know that the holy spirit is screaming in his ear you're the only believer in town please don't walk into the brothel everybody's watching this is at least a very bad witness he goes in and what does he do sleeps with the Philistine prostitute okay he keeps failing the W the women test and the sex test and the lust Test Now what's what's what's even more challenging in our day every man's got a brothel on his phone the average man in our day can see more naked women in a minute than a king could see in his lifetime and so this temptation for all of us it is constant making matters worse he goes from his good mom to his you know seemingly decent but unbelieving wife to a prostitute can it get worse yeah how many of you you call this college okay so here's the last one uh chick named Delilah she is a black widow she is a Philistine Double Agent the text doesn't Clearly say that she was a Philistine but it seems to indicate she came from that region Delilah is sent with the mission of seducing him so she could destroy him let me say this if you don't have a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and a commitment to personal Holiness especially when it comes to women eventually Satan will send you a Delilah she will seduce you she will satisfy you and then she will slay you that's Delilah she ultimately is the means of his destruction okay um all men let's just be honest all men it is a constant test of how we will interact with women to stayed the obvious Samson failed his test and the failure of that test cost him his life ultimately you'll see the story she cuts his hair he loses his anointing he loses his power and strength he's then incarcerated and they gouge out his eyes and the Holy Spirit just reminds me at the very beginning of his Downfall with women he said he wanted to marry the Philistine because she looked good in his eyes and and then Delilah is like we're gonna gouge out your eyes the eyes that caused you to look upon a woman lustfully ultimately will cause you to be seduced by a Delilah and we will gouge out your eyes and you will never see again the Holy Spirit reminds me in job 31:1 it says uh I made a covenant with my eyes not to look at women lustfully you know if he would have had a covenant with his eyes he wouldn't have had his eyes gouged out it's it's a how many of you it's it's a haunting example and just you know this is why most churches don't teach on Samson uh and and in Sunday school like the kids never get this lesson the veggie tail never got made here's the blind guy after he was with the hooker you're like yeah okay um what vegetable would that work for you know like anyways all right test number five this will be the last one for this week we'll do the next five next week the courage test um judges 14:6 then the spirit of the Lord rushed upon Him judges 14:9 the spirit of the Lord rushed upon Him judges 15:14 then the spirit of the Lord rushed upon him there are these moments in Samson's life where the spirit of God drops on him and all of a sudden he has divine power he's supernaturally empowered in judges 15 he kills a thousand Philistine men with what a Jawbone of a donkey he's the guy he's walking around there's a thousand dudes he doesn't even arm himself he just picks up whatever happens to be nearby when he comes with divine power he is an Unstoppable force in judges 16 in the end he pushes out the walls of the Temple of decon and it says that he kills

3,000 Philistine men I mean you think about this I mean how many how many of you guys are in the military military guys military guys can we honor those men and thank those men for their service he but imagine if your story was it was just me i i i b stacked a thousand dudes that day we'd be like congratulations you know please run for president you know and or if if the next guy is like well in one day I body stack 3,000 guys that's Samson so let me ask you this does he pass the courage test yeah so what are the two tests that he passed uh God Saves him and he has courage what he fails is sensitivity of the Holy Spirit personal Holiness and women the result is as his life ends this is how his life ends he's blind they've literally gouged out his eyes he's a prisoner of war and he commits suicide to to kill his enemies it's literally like a suicide bomber he he he ends his life to end their lives it's a it's a very horrific ending to the life of Samson okay when Samson dies does he leave a wife NOP does he leave any kids or grandkids no um does he have any friends no um he dies alone and he dies a brutal death and in that death he is yelling about his Vengeance and his bitterness the last words on the lips of Samson before he dies is Vengeance and bitterness okay um here's the problem with Samson's life he never repents he never changes he never pivots he never listens Samson never has one person in Authority speaking into his life no one Samson never assembles around himself a group of guys to hold him accountable and help him make decisions he's a complete loner from beginning to end he doesn't devote himself to a wife or kids or a family and he pursues love his whole life and he ends lonely and betrayed by a Delilah now what Hebrews 11 says is he's in heaven but his life was hell here's what I want you men to know I love you with my whole heart I truly do this is one of the great honors of my life is to just try and encourage you that means to pour courage into you my first question is have you received Jesus Christ as your savior see Jesus saves from Satan's sin death hell and the wrath of God but here's what I will tell you as well Jesus saves you from you how many of you like me if Jesus didn't save me from me I would be Samson 2.0 that'd be me the difference between me and Samson is Jesus that's it it's the grace of God if you've not received Jesus Jesus Christ is your personal savior that's where it starts the next thing is Jesus Christ is not just your savior he's your lord and what that means is he has authority over your whole life your sex life is under the lordship of Jesus your financial life is under the lordship of Jesus your dating life is under the authority and lordship of Jesus your marriage is under the lordship of Jesus your work is under under the lordship of Jesus your ministry is under the lordship of Jesus the problem with Samson was he knew Jesus as Savior but he didn't surrender to him as Lord the result is he was saved but he couldn't be saved from himself let me let me say this some of you need to be saved from you some of you need to know that the greatest danger and threat to you is you some of you need to know that even though you may be saved and have courage you could self-destruct and you could ruin your entire life and the point of this message is uh number one is Jesus your savior number two is Jesus your lord and if so is there any area of your life where you're not practicing personal Holiness or you're not demonstrating sensitivity to the Holy Spirit or maybe you're dating or sleeping with the wrong woman or women and this is an opportunity to have what Samson never had some guys around him to help him stay out of Harm's Way and so what we're going to do in a moment we're going to give you time around the tables and these will be your discussion questions uh number one what did the Holy Spirit highlight in the talk for you number two what test are you taking in life right now every man in his life is constantly taking some kind of test and then thirdly how can we pray for you let me pray and we'll release a live stream stream and I've got one thing for the men in the room uh Lord Jesus thank you that you are not just our savior but our Lord that you don't just forgive our sins but you rule over our lives and if we bring our lives under your lordship we grow in personal

Holiness we have a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and then we can be led and controlled by our God and not our desires and and the wrong kind of women Lord I want all the men to know that they can be forgiven for all of their sins and that Lord Jesus if they're hearing this it's not too late uh Samson didn't finish well but it's not too late they can finish well they just need to repent and pivot they need to surrender and change and God I know that you will give them the grace because these are your sons and you love them and father if your sons want to do the right thing I know that you will help them because that is the heart of our father and we thank you for that in Jesus' name amen