



ANOINTED SON

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all right you guys ready to study God's word amen well thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you for the love and support I love you thank you thank you please thank you please be seated um I love you very much I love you as well and it's an honor to be your pastor and I just want to be an obedient servant and a decent son of my great heavenly father and so today my assignment is to teach the Bible is that okay with you guys how about we do that so if you would please open to Judges chapter 13 we've been in a book of the Bible called judges uh for about four months and we've looked at a gal named uh Deborah fantastic anointed female leader we saw a guy named Gideon he started great finished not so great and and today we're going to conclude our study in judges looking at the most uh complicated character perhaps in the entire Bible a guy named Samson so let me tell you a little bit about Samson uh he is one of the 12 judges the Book of Judges is a series of 12 judges these are spiritual leaders that God raises up to lead God's people in a time that's much like our own culture there's a lot of compromise a lot of confusion and the line between the church and the world has either been moved or erased all together and so God raises up the judges to make Discerning decisions like this is right this is wrong this is for God this is against God uh he is one of the most famous guys in the whole Bible this guy Samson is even if you're not a Christian you've probably heard of him uh he also has made it into pop culture and it's kind of weird I was thinking about it uh so there was a French grand opera called Samson and Delilah it's weird that Samson made an opera it doesn't seem like the genre but anyways uh like I I would see like death metal like that seems like Samson you know uh but uh he was Samson was played by Placido Domingo so he's he's been even sort of a giant figure in culture and uh when we come to judges and I want you to read it for yourself and I've got a study guide to help you learn it uh he is covered in four chapters 96 verses in the Book of Judges and that means that he gets more attention than anyone else in the Book of Judges what's also interesting about Samson there's a chapter in the New Testament Hebrews 11 and it has this list of all kind of the Giant and heroes of the faith it's like the Hebrew Mount Rushmore like here's our founding fathers and uh of all the guys on the list maybe the most perplexing is Samson uh he actually made the list but if you look at his life uh he is a man that doesn't make any moral progress and most of the storylines in the Bible some people meet the Lord and they make moral progress for some people it's two steps forward one step back for him nothing he starts as a guy with no character and 40 years later he has not moved I mean the closest thing he seems to think that Trinity is is alcohol murder and prostitutes I mean he's he's really got some moral problems and he's one of those guys that you're just you keep turning the page thinking okay is he going to apologize to God is he going to get better is he going to make improvements and his life is very complicated because he is physically strong but he's morally and spiritually weak he's physically strong but he's morally and spiritually weak and the Bible says that he went to heaven but ultimately he kind of lived like hell and so he's one of these complex characters uh one thing as well let's just I'll ask this do you think he was big or small see we all think big but I don't know I was thinking about this because you know it's my job but uh but I was wondering like was he a regular guy but then when the anointing of God came on him was he like the Hulk did he get big temporarily maybe I don't know maybe he was a really big guy or maybe he was like another guy in the New Testament a guy called the demoniac and this was just a regular guy but he was so powerful with demonic power that he literally lived out of town and people walked around that region they avoided him all together because he had superhuman strength he would break shackles and he would kill people we don't know but nonetheless when the anointing of God comes on him he has incredible Supernatural strength what I find interesting as well uh some psychiatrist tried to diagnose him and uh I just can't see

him laying on the couch talking about his feelings but nonetheless um in the archives of General Psychiatry they diagnose him with apsd um and that is antisocial personality disorder they look at the story of Samson in the Bible and they say he has antisocial personality disorder so they give him a medical diagnosis a clinical diagnosis what's interesting as well they say that this mental condition is usually most prevalent in criminals and politicians I know I was shocked too that those were two categories I was like I didn't I thought that was the same category uh and and what they said was to meet the clinical diagnosis uh there were seven different um sort of checklist measures to determine who has this uh dysfunction and you only need three to qualify he had six out of seven failure to conform to social norms lying fighting bullying impulsivity cruelty to animals and murder he he also never married uh or he did marry but he didn't really live with his wife we'll get into that uh he never had kids uh he doesn't have any friends he never assembles a team he's a complete strongman isolated loner now the backdrop for the life of Samson is in the days of the judges and at the very end of the book it tells us what was happening over this roughly 300-year course of human history it says everyone did what was right in their own eyes everyone did what was right in their own eyes and so you see the nation founded and then by the days of Samson everything has been in Decline and all of a sudden the nation is headed toward a cliff of Ruin and disaster and I was thinking about it from a prophetic standpoint here we are in the United States of America and let me just say this the older I get the more I love my country and the more I don't love my government I'll just say that okay so uh but where where the story of s son begins is roughly 250 260 years into Israel's history about the same age of the United States of America so we're about as old today as they were at the beginning of the 40-year reign of Samson and so what we see with Samson is this 40-year Decline and it makes you wonder as we look into our future what does the future hold for us as a nation as a culture as a people and so I I did a little research and I'll share it with you briefly and this will set up the backdrop it's the rise and fall of civilizations it's from a Scottish philosopher named Alexander Tyler and he says that most major countries civilizations they last roughly 200ish years and here's the process and we see this in judges step one from bondage to spiritual growth because of suffering they started in slavery in Egypt uh step two from spiritual growth to Great courage hardened by suffering that was under the leadership of Moses and Joshua from courage to Liberty as evil is defeated they got to take the promised land back from Liberty to abundance and prosperity all of a sudden the economy was working and God was blessing step five from abundancy to complacency and indifference people stopped seeking God and they sto thanking God and they stopped obeying God step six from complacency to apathy and laziness next thing you know Evil's taken over the land the culture is in Decline everything from education to entertainment the government and the church is sort of lost its way step seven from apathy we don't care anymore to dependence on government and so all of a sudden it is we don't depend on God we need a bigger government and then from dependence back to bondage this is the cycle of Nations this is the cycle of Judges my question to you would be where do you think we're at currently nationally somewhere of seven and eight and that's exactly where they were that's where in some regard I think that the story of Samson is a bit prophetic they're about as old as we are and they're about where we are that being said now we will uh jump in and let me just say this um the problems manifest themselves politically but the ultimate problem is spiritually in their day they didn't obey and honor God and the point is this government can't fix spiritual problems it can deal with the implications and complications But ultimately it takes people turning from sin and trusting trting in God to fix the fix the root problem because it's ultimately a god problem and it can't be fixed by a government that being said we'll Jump Right In judges

1331 and here's the backdrop for the days of Samson and the people of Israel again over and over and over did what was evil I'm sure they didn't use that word uh I'm sure they thought you know well this is our perspective we disagree tolerance diversity Pride you know all of the nonsense they did what was evil in the sight of the Lord so the Lord gave them over to the hand of the Philistines for 40 years and so what we see here is uh what I will call the myth of progressivism and that is that we're good and over time just we'll get better but we see here over time we're Sinners and without repentance of sin and faith in God things get worse and how many of you right now you're looking at our culture our world and looking toward you know what's coming with the election and you're like can it get any worse okay let me discourage you it can't it can always get worse right I mean if people don't repent and trust in God it only gets worse and worse it doesn't get better and better and so what they have here is they have an invading Force called the Philistines that oppresses them for 40 years that's the longest of any oppression in the days of the judges and what's really interesting is at other times in the history the Book of Judges they would sin against God God would sort of lift his protection their enemies would invade and oppress them and eventually dealing with all the pain problem and Peril if you'll remember the people would cry out to the Lord finally they be like God we're sorry God we apologize for what we've done God please forgive us what's interesting here it's the longest depression and they never cry out to the Lord the question is how long will it take to cry out to the Lord and let me say this that sometimes sin in our life causes pain in our life and as we're feeling that pain the best thing we can do is cry out to the Lord as soon as possible see the God that we worship His Name is Jesus Christ he lived without sin he died for Sinners he rose to forgive sin and he's right now alive and well in heaven and if we cry out to him I'm sorry I've sinned I Repent please forgive me every time this is what's amazing about Jesus every time he says yes and every time he then comes to help you and he comes to deliver you they never cried out to him what I think is beautiful you'll see it in a moment even though they don't cry out to him Jesus comes to them this just shows you that no matter how bad people are Jesus is still good in addition the Philistines here are going to be the enemy so this is going to be the conflict between Samson and God's people against the Philistines so if you read it for yourself and I would encourage you to do so judges 13:14-16 these are the enemies and all of this started back in the days of Joshua so God's people were enslaved in Egypt they were delivered they were headed back toward the promised land after being displaced for 400 plus years Joshua 13:3 if memory serves me correct God tells Joshua when you get there get rid of the Philistines they're your enemy they're going to be a problem okay and so the point is for you and I what people and things do we need to not tolerate in our life what are the people in things it's like you know we can't do life and business and marriage and family and relationship with them unless they repent because otherwise they're going to be a problem well they never subdued the Philistines and so then they had God's people and God's enemies sort of living and conducting business and marriage and life together there wasn't any for God's people and the result is judgment and so I'll just read it again and then I'll explain it to you the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and what we would call this today is something called apostasy and I want to share with you this process that they fell into and I want to do so honestly with a broken heart as I look at the Church of Jesus Christ in the United States of America there are some wonderful great glorious and good churches uh but there is also this slide toward doing evil in the sight of the Lord and it says people are trying to do what is right in the sight of the culture rather than Christ and at the end of the day we don't give an account to culture we give an account to Christ and at the end of the day we don't belong to culture we belong to Christ and so what we're seeing in our day is like in their

day the the the line between the world and the church it was either moved or erased all of a sudden the church is doing things that the world are doing and so what God does he sends consequence in judgment and so let me show you the process that they were U suffering under and I want you to pray pray for our church and all churches that that we would not fall into these four pillars of apostasy but that's what was happening in their day number one universalism everybody goes to heaven in the end we all make it number two pluralism well there are many paths to God number three syncretism uh syncretism is Christians and churches remove God's lines between the church and the world and an apostasy people who say they were Christians deny Christ in word or deed the point is this well we're all going to heaven okay so whatever works for you pick your religion your spirituality just pick it um and if you want to combine some of that with Christianity you can and eventually most people will just decide well if we're all going to heaven and every path works I'm certainly not going to do what this book says because it has some very high expectations and there's some things I want to do and it tells me no and it offends me page after page so if if we're all going to go to heaven and every path is right and you don't have to do what's right in God's sight you get to do what's right in your sight then eventually what you say is well why would we read the Bible pray and go to church and why would we care about Jesus he seems to expect us to repent of our sin and that's what was happening in their day and that's what happens in every day and that's what's happening tragically in our day and let me just say this as well let me say a few things and then I want to get deeper into the storyline there are lots of pressures on God's people especially right now to compromise to not do what is right in the sight of the Lord and they were doing evil in the sight of the Lord uh let me say this number one for some of you the great pressure to compromise is personal and I love you and it's an honor to teach you the Bible but let me just say this we've all got some things in our life that are a personal struggle for us we've all got our Temptations for some it's sex some it's food some it's power some it's anger some it's money we've all got our struggle but what you can't do is say because this is something that I personally struggle with I need God to edit his word okay and so just know this every single one of us at some point opens the Bible and says if there was one thing I would I could change that would be it for me but none of us has a right to do that we don't change what God says we let What God Says change what we do okay number two sometimes the pressure for compromise that they were enduring as well is relational and this is where it gets very personal there's somebody you love uh but their life their beliefs their behavior it's not for God but you care about them and so you want to change the line of what God says so that you can you can not lose relationship with them or not speak ill of them I was dealing with a A friend of mine some years ago and uh he had this difficult moment uh his dad died and was the grandpa to the grandchildren and Grandpa didn't care about Jesus didn't care about church didn't care about Bible didn't want to hear anything about God Grandpa died so then the grandkids ask Dad what happened to Grandpa it's it's tough right like if you're just like purely a Bible nerd you're like ah he's kindling yeah but but you know but which may not which is not the wrong answer you know but but you've also got the grandkids and they're crying and they're worried about Grandpa do you see where now it's it's a relational struggle and so so he he gave them a good answer he said well you know Grandpa didn't seem to care about Jesus but um that's between him and Jesus Jesus is the Lord of Heaven and he'll make the decision he like well that's that's true like Jesus isn't down here going hey Mark what do you think like I think you should make this decision you know that's what I think so Heaven belongs to Jesus and he decides what happens to people in the end but you can't allow your personal struggles or your relational connections to change your convictions okay and then thirdly as well

uh cultural so in that day there was this overwhelming Avalanche toward doing what God said not to do education entertainment even bad churches and government all the pressure how many of you you do love Jesus you're feeling it like right now some of you are feeling it at work some of you are feeling it at School some of you are feeling it with extended family some of you are feeling it with friends and that is God drew a line we're asking you to either move it or erase it otherwise we're going to be a problem for you and so the answer is and I was praying about it a lot and this is my uh deep conviction I told the team this this week um I I I don't know I should have looked this up um is churchy a word I don't know is it should be if it's not a word it's now a word and what I think is that we just need to stay churchy yeah okay churchy like hey open your Bible yep okay hey we like to sing worship songs to Jesus we like to pray we like to take communion uh we like to build relationships uh we get excited about weddings when babies are born we throw a party uh we're those weirdos for Jesus we're churchy we're churching we're just churching okay and so I just I feel like the season that we're in and the word of God that we're studying I feel like God's word to us is just stay churchy just do Bible and prayer and worship and Jesus and forgiveness and communion and life in the Holy Spirit and fun for kids and baptisms and weddings is that okay we're just going to stay churchy that's what we're going to do and I'll be honest with you too I'm 53 and it's so hard to be cool um so I just I'm going to stay in my Lane okay so well we're going to do now we're going to jump back so that's the backdrop of the story and the political cultural moral backdrop of the days of judges and the days of Samson now we're going to go deep into the narrative we're going to read a lot of verses and we're going to look and peer into Samson's family and the Bible says that faith comes by hearing the word of God so I'm sure that your faith will be built as we read this together but here's the story there was a certain man of zor Judges 13 2-14 of the tribe of the danites danite means judge whose name was manoah his wife her name is never mentioned she was Barren and had no children uh and the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her let me just tell you the surprise right now that's Jesus Jesus Christ is Creator God Eternal and here he comes down from heaven angel means messenger of the Lord or word of the Lord when the Bible says an angel it usually means a created Divine being an angel when it says the angel it's Jesus the messenger of the Lord okay so Jesus comes down and the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her behold you are Barren and have not born children but you shall conceive and bear a son it's a prophetic word therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink and eat nothing unclean for behold you shall conceive and bear a son no razor shall come upon his head no haircuts for the child shall be a Nazarite I'll explain all that to God from the womb and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines that's a military calling then the woman came and told her husband a man of God it is actually the God man she was right a man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God very awesome I did not ask him where he was from and he did not tell me his name but he said to me behold you shall conceive and bear a son so then drink no wine or strong drink and eat nothing unclean for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death then manoah the dad prayed to the Lord and said you notice dad's not very sharp God just told him what to do and he's like hey Lord what do you want us to do like well okay so manoah prayed to the Lord and said oh Lord please let the man of God whom you sent come again send Jesus back and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born God's like okay we'll do it again and God listened to the voice of manoah and the the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field but B Noah her husband was not with her so the woman ran quickly and told her husband behold the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me and manoah Rose and went after his wife and came

to the man and said to him now he's going to talk to Jesus are you the man who spoke to this woman he said I am and Manoah said now when your words come true what is to be the child's manner of life it's like we've already been through this a few times and what is his mission well we've just covered that as well he's going to take his right vow and he's going to fight the Philistines and the angel of the Lord said to Manoah of all that I have said to the woman let her be careful she may not eat of anything that comes from the vine neither let her drink wine or strong drink or eat any unclean thing all that I commanded her let her observe so here's his family so there's Jesus Jesus comes down and what I love about this they didn't invite him do you know that sometimes Jesus loves you so much that he just shows up and you didn't even know you needed him yeah that's what happens they really need Jesus they don't know it and they're not asking him he's like I'm just going to show up now what's interesting here Jesus shows up but the husband he doesn't see it okay how many of you women you're like I married that guy right okay um it wasn't that funny ladies uh so and sometimes what happens is Jesus shows up and you don't even recognize that God's now involved in your life okay and that's what's happening here but Jesus does show up and he shows up to hell now the father Manoah um he's a guy who um he's not that sharp Jesus shows up and he's like do this and he's like Jesus would you please come back and tell us what to do he's okay the woman here is more mature and discerning than the man okay and I know that's never happened it's really a rare exception here in this section of God's word um but what we see as well is that Jesus showed up once told them what to do the husband prayed said you could come could you please please come back and tell us again what does Jesus do he does it again let me tell you what I love about our Lord Jesus he's okay with the process see it's like raising a kid how many of you have told a kid something once yeah okay you know where I'm going with this it's not like when they're four you're like okay never never never do drugs or drink and then at 18 you're like I told you when you were four you know like we've already covered this the truth is if you're going to raise a child sometimes you got to repeat yourself like let me tell you again let me explain it again here's what I love about Jesus um he's willing to be in the process with us he's like I told you this I'm going to talk to you about it again you know we've already worked on this we're going to work on it again some of you feel bad or embarrassed or ashamed that you're in the process and here's what I want you to know Jesus is all about the process right the husband here is in the process and Jesus doesn't rebuke him Jesus doesn't shame him and Jesus doesn't neglect him Jesus shows up and says if you want to do it again I'll do it again I'm committed to the process with you in addition the woman here the the mother she's unnamed we don't know her name but their situation is pretty common in the Bible so before this couple there was another couple that was also barren it was Abraham and Sarah and then after this couple there's another couple uh called Zachariah and Elizabeth and they were barren and so barrenness in that day was devastating it's really odd um in our day people generally in our culture don't seem to like children and they don't seem to celebrate life well God's people are totally different we celebrate life and we believe children are a blessing that's what we believe and so for them to not have a child that would have been devastating but then to hear you're going to have a child that would be a blessing and uh here's the bottom line for the parents um are believers they do pray they do worship God Samson grows up in a good home now he ends up being just a wild man and sometimes what happens is somebody grows up to just be a bit crazy and off kilter and we wonder where did their parents go wrong okay sometimes it wasn't the parents it was the person who just grew up and made their own decisions Samson can't blame this on his parents he can't be like I had a lot of trauma as a child and you know I've been through a lot and they're like we Jesus was at our house like you you had it pretty good you

know and we we stayed married and we loved the Lord and we worshiped the Lord and we prayed to the Lord and and we honored God and we weren't perfect but we were a Godly family see sometimes what happens is we want to blame the parents for the decisions of adult children and just because there's a bad adult doesn't mean they had bad parents they're responsible for their own choices and that's the story of Samson well a little bit about him you may not know this uh his name means sunny and he's not very bright at Samson he also has a military calling to fight the the Philistines let me say this God puts on some people a a an anointing for conflict maybe even for combat I do believe that there are certain people that God anoints and calls to be police officers and First Responders and and soldiers and that's going to be the calling on his life because evil doesn't stop itself and so God's people need to get in the way and stop evil that's that's the calling on Samson's life now one of the most important things to understand about his life and Jesus says it here is that he has something called a Nazarite vow and again all of this is in the study guide and if you want to look at it in detail uh in the Old Testament book of numbers which I know you were all digging into deeply all week um thank you for doing so but but um but in the Book of Numbers Chapter 6 is all about something called a Nazarite vow and it's this unique vow of Holiness and holy means to be set apart or unique or consecrated and dedicated to the Lord's service and so Samson was supposed to be uh consecrated and dedicated from his mother's womb that's why his mother was not to partake of alcohol and other things just to summarize it the Nazarite vow on his life is four things no alcohol does he violate that yeah yes okay no unclean foods does he violate that yes uh no haircuts does he violate that yeah we'll get there uh and he's not allowed to touch corpses violated that God said to him four things four things and in his life over and over and over he violated every one of those four Nazarite vow commands and what this is for you and I you can be saved you can be a believer but you can live a life without personal Holiness and so a lot of people will wonder well you know am I going to go to heaven when I die if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ if you've turned from your sin and trusted in him yes but um Christianity is not just about dying and going to heaven it's also living for Jesus before you get there okay and so for Samson we can look at him and we can be like my goodness this guy has some personal Holiness in issues that he really needs to work on and uh we'll deal with this a little more at the end of the sermon but it is a question for us do I even if I am a believer and I belong to the Lord Jesus do I have a commitment to personal Holiness okay A lot of people are like well I'm still going to go to heaven it's like yeah but don't live like hell on your way okay and so it's this question are we living in personal Holiness the story then continues we'll read the next section which again is a bit lengthy it's a narrative judges 13:1 15-23 manoah said to the angel of the Lord so Dad says to Jesus please let us detain you hang out with us and prepare a young goat for you what I love about his dad he grills and so that's good uh we all acknowledge that's a that's a great thing and uh thank you sir and the angel of the Lord said to manoah if you detain me I will not eat of your food Jesus is like I you know I'm fine uh but if you prepare a burnt offering so that's worship then offer it to the Lord for manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord Jesus is at his house and manoah said to the angel of the Lord what is your name so that when your words come true do you see now he's got faith he's like you said something and they're going to it's going to happen I believe in the word of the Lord how do we know your name so that we may honor you when your promises come to pass and the angel of the Lord said to him why do you ask my name seeing it is wonderful so manoah took the young goat with the grain offering and offered on the Rock to the the Lord so he's going to sacrifice and worship to the one who works wonders and manoah and his wife were watching and when the flame went up toward Heaven from the altar the the angel

of the Lord went up in the flame of the altar he's like oh my goodness it's a miracle I was meeting with God now Mano and his wife were watching and they fell on their faces to the ground dear friend what are they doing they're worshipping God and they're doing something that others weren't doing they were living with a reverential fear of the Lord see other people didn't fear and honor and rever the Lord Samson's parents do uh the angel of the Lord the story continues appeared no more to manoah and his wife then manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord that was Jesus and manoah said to his wife we shall surely die we have seen God so he's got definite fear of the Lord and technically the Bible if you saw God you should die unless he was the one who caused it to happen but his wife said to him she's she's pretty sharp um it's good to have a gal like this by the way if the Lord had meant to kill us he would have not accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands or show us all these things or now announce to us such things as these um so here's the story um Jesus shows up manoah wants to eat a meal with him uh Jesus doesn't eat the meal instead Jesus says my name is wonderful and if you know the scriptures uh every year you probably get a Christmas card that has a verse on it Isaiah 9:6 for to us a child is born to us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called wonderful so Jes let me say this this isn't in my notes this is just in my heart all of a sudden Jesus is wonderful yeah he's wonderful I've never met anyone like Jesus a God that would love us even when we don't love him a God that would forgive us even though we've not yet apologize to him and his kindness leads us to repentance a God that would seek us when we're running from him a God that would be patient with us in the process Jesus Christ is wonderful can we I just feel like we should this is just in my heart um would you just repeat after me Jesus Jesus you are you are wonderful wonderful does that just feel good in the soul he's wonderful he's wonderful he's wonderful I I just am so touched in the spirit right now and how wonderful Jesus is he's been so wonderful to me wonderful to my family he's so wonderful I didn't intend to say this but I just feel like we just need to stop right now and just just thank him for being wonderful just honor him for being wonderful and be grateful to him for being wonderful can we do that he's wonderful and and what I love is they stop and they worship they make a sacrifice they give an offering and then they fall down on their faces and in a bit we're going to spend time in the presence of Jes Jesus who is wonderful and if you want to if you want to be face down be face down if you want to put your face in the chair and just meet with him and talk to him he's wonderful and sometimes you got to just tell your body to show where your heart's at when you bow down you're saying I I Surrender when you lift your hands you say I surrender they're worshipping they're worshipping Jesus who is wonderful and I love the fact here that the couple is this just kind of hit me too the couple is learning how to worship together I just just thought of this um some of you you've not worshiped much as a couple you're married you're like well we're kind of new to this what do we do just get started right uh one of my favorite moments of the week um is to come to church and I love you with all my heart I am very honored to teach you the word of God and and I thank you for giving me the honor of being your pastor um but before I preach I get to hold Grace his hand in worship if you're married let me just tell you you need that more than you think and what we see here is this couple they're worshipping Jesus together let me tell you what a blessing that is okay Jesus is wonderful and that is wonderful okay and so even when we go into our time of worship if you're here and you're and you're married worship together hold hands sing together worship Jesus together thank and honor him together and I just love this beautiful picture of a couple that is worshipping Jesus together well let me just uh summarize a little bit on the story and then we'll go into some time to meet with Jesus and do what they did just to worship him because he's wonderful so what we see here

is the uh beginning of Samson's anointing so I'm going to read you the next verse that closes chapter 13 and um and what we see is that the Holy Spirit comes on Samson in powered a very young age and let me say this children can have the Holy Spirit at a very young age sometimes the spirit of God comes Upon a Child even from their mother's womb because they are a person known and loved by God that's the case with John the baptizer so what we see in these final verses is what sets Samson apart is the spirit of God anointing him for power okay and so we'll read that verse and then I want to look at the other occasion iians in The Narrative of Samson where it talks about his powerful anointing in the spirit judges uh 13:24 and the woman bore a son and called his name Samson and the young man grew and the Lord blessed him that's the grace of God Samson is saved and kept by the Blessed grace of God and the spirit of the Lord the Holy Spirit began to stir in him and Mahana Dan between Zora and ashtown chapter 14:6 the spirit of the Lord rushed upon Him judges 14:19 the spirit of the Lord rushed upon Him judges 15:14 you see this theme the spirit of the Lord rushed upon him uh let me explain how this uh works that Samson isn't constantly living over and over by the power of the Holy Spirit he's grieving quenching resisting the spirit to use the language of the New Testament but there are times when God the Holy Spirit falls on him as God the Holy Spirit fell on Jesus in the early church and I pray even falls on us today and the Holy Spirit falls on him and gives him power so what makes Samson powerful is that he lives by God's power he doesn't do so consistently but on these uh intervals where the spirit of God rushes upon him now that being said I'm going to invite the band up at this time and we're going to set the mood to do what his mother and father did In Worship but let me just summarize some themes from judges and I would encourage you to be reading these stories in God's word for yourself but first and foremost the the the entire theme of The Book of Judges is not shockingly judging uh there are 12 judges over the course of 300 years that God raises up to judge you know why everything's wrong and God says somebody needs to say what's right and what's wrong because not everything's right and so this theme of judging is one in our culture that even people who don't know the Lord Jesus they tend to quote one verse Thou shalt not judge let me tell you in context Jesus said uh what he's saying is don't judge them till you judge you what he's saying is if you've got a plank like a 2x4 in your head and they've got a speck of dust you should probably deal with them after you deal with you and what Jesus is talking about in not judging is he's saying judge yourself before you judge others judge yourself before you judge the world and so what we want to do in this time together we want to say okay Lord you set up judges to judge and I and now what I'm asking is that we would spend some time and we would allow the Holy Spirit to be our judge and to show us any sin any uncleanness any compromise any Rebellion any doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord and then as we repent and we say Jesus I'm sorry please forgive me you died for this this and you'll forgive me then what'll happen is our sight will be clear and then we can see ourselves we can see our savior and then we can help to have discernment in this broken and flawed world where everyone is only doing what is right in their own eyes but again before we start judging others we got to judge ourselves number two one of the great themes from the story of Samson is eyes over and over in the book it says that everyone did what was right in their own eyes Samson on one occasion the Holy Spirit reminds me they ask him why are you doing this he said seems good in my eyes the key is you need to do what's right in God's eyes we read at the beginning of the Samson narrative everyone did what was wrong or evil in the sight of the Lord it doesn't matter how I see it whatever the issue might be it doesn't matter how they see it whatever the issue may be really the issue is how does he see it how does he see it and what's interesting is that Samson lives his life largely morally blind and at the end he actually goes blind

and the point is this we don't want to live blind we want to live with our eyes open that means that we need to begin by judging ourselves so that our eyes can be open not just to the evil around us but the rebellion in us and let me say this dear friend I love you very very much and I'm going to apply this word in my own life as well but we live in a day when you can get so upset and angry about everything that's going on out there you don't take time to see what's going on in here yeah the world is dark how about me yeah the world is foolish how about me yes the world is rebellious but how about me and so we're going to use this as a sacred time for you to invite the Holy Spirit to be your judge for God to open your eyes to anything that would be displeasing in his sight and then we're going to ask the Holy Spirit and I would encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to anoint you with power like Samson had and ultimately what we see in Samson there's a big difference between power and character he has unprecedented power but he has poor character this is true of many Christians they have great power but they don't cultivate character and so I want this to be a time for us as a church family and you as individuals to ask the Holy Spirit not to just give you power but then to agree with the holy spirit that you would use that power to cultivate character the fruit of the spirit not just the power of the spirit see the fruit of the spirit is love joy peace patience goodness kindness gentleness faithfulness and self-control that's the fruit of the spirit Samson had the power of the spirit but he didn't cultivate the fruit of the spirit Christian character and lastly I will close with this he had a Nazarite vow on his life and that was God God saying son these things are not for you these are things in the world they can't be in the church these are things for the unbelievers they can't be for the Believers and my question to you dear friend is how is your personal Holiness going when no one's looking God still sees as there areas of your life you're like well I'm not doing what I should be doing but I'm not as bad as them well it's not about you and them it's about you and him so I just feel inclined in the spirit based upon the word of God that we've studied today that uh this sermon is going to end a little early we're going to take time to be churchy we're going to sing we're going to pray we're going to repent of our sins if you've offended someone and they're here reconcile with them uh if you need to kneel and fall down as this beautiful couple did to worship God do so uh if you're married uh hold hands and worship like they did and I just feel like that's all I need to say today I love you with all my heart let me pray for you and then let's just meet with Jesus who's wonderful okay Lord Jesus we just say you are wonderful you've always been wonderful you will always be wonderful you can only be wonderful Jesus you came down to this couple and they didn't ask Jesus we're asking please send down your spirit the spirit of Christ God as you anointed Samson we ask that you would anoint us with power but that Lord God we would respond not just with the power of the spirit but the fruit of the SP spirit that we would cultivate Christian character and Lord as the world gets darker we ask that we would have short accounts with you that we would close that time gap between our sin and our repentance and that you would continually pour out Grace on us as you always do and holy spirit we just invite you now uh God lord Jesus this is your church these are your people and this is their time to meet with you and so we thank you Lord Jesus for your presence and we pray all of this in Jesus name amen please stand [Applause]