



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 059 - Self-Serving Superman Judges 13-16

Did you ever want to be a superhero when you were a kid?

- If so, which one did you want to be? Why?

The idea of possessing superhuman strength has long intrigued people. After all, the Greeks had their Hercules. Well, God did choose to give superhuman strength to one individual, an Israelite judge named Samson. Sadly, Samson was probably the poorest of the judges since he only used his God-given strength for his own selfish purposes.

- If you had strength like Samson, how would you use it?
- When professional athletes are rewarded with attention, fame, and huge salaries because of their “superhuman” strength, talents, and abilities, how do their lives often parallel Samson’s life? Why do you think this happens?
- How difficult do you think it would be to live a *selfless* life rather than a *selfish* life if you had such physical strength and ability?

God raised up Samson to deliver Israel from the Philistines, but Samson didn’t care at all about Israel. He only cared about Samson.

- How was God able to use Samson’s sinful desires to lead the reluctant judge to fight against the Philistines when he had shown no interest helping Israel otherwise?

Jesus Christ had greater strength than Samson. Yet Jesus never used those miraculous powers to make Himself wealthy, prominent, or powerful. Instead, He poured Himself out and used His superhuman powers for God’s people in need: the blind, the lame, the deaf, the demon-possessed, and the dead. On the cross He went alone to battle the hosts of hell.

Discuss the similarities and contrasts between Samson’s suffering and that of Jesus:

- Their betrayals (Delilah/Judas)
- Being captured and bound by enemies
- Being blinded (Christ was blindfolded)
- Being put on display before enemies who mocked, ridiculed, and gloated over them.

Even circumstances surrounding their deaths were similar. For Samson, all the Philistine rulers and officials were gathered together celebrating their enemy’s capture. As he pulled down the building in his death the entire government of the Philistines was killed with him, thus freeing the Israelites from their oppressors.

As Jesus died on the cross, Satan and all his host were celebrating the destruction of their Enemy. Yet in Jesus’ death their reign was destroyed, fulfilling God’s prophecy to Satan in the Garden of Eden, “He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15b). In the process, you and I were set free from Satan’s dominion.

- What is our proper response when God accomplishes His good purposes for us and those around us even *through* our sinful and disobedient acts?