

# GOD AND ORDINARY PEOPLE, LIKE US

Peter Thomas, Pastor | July 21, 2019

“Samson... Born For A Graceful And Broken Process On ALL Sides!”—Pt. 2



**14** *One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye.* <sup>2</sup> *When he returned home, he told his father and mother, “A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me.”* <sup>3</sup> *His father and mother objected. “Isn’t there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?” they asked. “Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?” But Samson told his father, “Get her for me! She looks good to me.”* <sup>4</sup> *His father and mother didn’t realize the LORD was at work in this, creating an opportunity to work against the Philistines, who ruled over Israel at that time.* Judges 14:1-4 (NLT)

## God’s Plan Will Not Fall Short, Go Un-notice Or Unaccomplished!

- God’s **opportunities and plans** don’t always go the way **we think it should go!**

- Ordinary people often times face... **tests, trials, and frustrations;** they are all part of God’s plan to bring about **extraordinary moments!**

*...<sup>19</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him. He went down to the town of Ashkelon, killed thirty men, took their belongings, and gave their clothing to the men who had solved his riddle. But Samson was furious about what had happened, and he went back home to live with his father and mother.* <sup>20</sup> *So his wife was given in marriage to the man who had been Samson’s best man at the wedding.* Read all of Judges 14:18–20 (NLT)

- God knew what He was going to use in Samson’s life to **gracefully break him** and to **prepare him** for his life’s purpose!

*...<sup>2</sup> “I truly thought you must hate her,” her father explained, “so I gave her in marriage to your best man. But look, her younger sister is even more beautiful than she is. Marry her instead.”* <sup>3</sup> *Samson said, “This time I cannot be blamed for everything I am going to do to you Philistines.”* <sup>4</sup> *Then he went out and caught 300 foxes. He tied their tails together in pairs, and he fastened a torch to each pair of tails.* <sup>5</sup> *Then he lit the torches and let the foxes run through the grain fields of the Philistines. He burned all their grain to the ground, including the sheaves and the uncut grain. He*

*also destroyed their vineyards and olive groves....* <sup>7</sup> *“Because you did this,” Samson vowed, “I won’t rest until I take my revenge on you!”* <sup>8</sup> *So he attacked the Philistines with great fury and killed many of them. Then he went to live in a cave in the rock of Etam.* Read all of Judges 15:1–8 (NLT)

- **Comfort, fear,** and a **“false form of safety”** can keep ordinary people **STUCK**, unwilling to **take a risk with God** for that extraordinary moment!

<sup>11</sup> *So 3,000 men of Judah went down to get Samson at the cave in the rock of Etam. They said to Samson, “Don’t you realize the Philistines rule over us? What are you doing to us?” But Samson replied, “I only did to them what they did to me.”* <sup>12</sup> *But the men of Judah told him, “We have come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines.”* Judges 15:11–12 (NLT)

- God used and will use **“WHOMEVER, WHATEVER** and **WHEREVER** to accomplish his plan and purpose for the **greater good of others!**

<sup>14</sup> *As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. But the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists.* <sup>15</sup> *Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it.* Judges 15:14–15 (NLT)

**Question:** What has God given you as a GIFT and STRENGTH \_\_\_\_\_; and how are you using it and protecting it?

<sup>17</sup> *Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. “My hair has never been cut,” he confessed, “for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else.”* Judges 16:17 (NLT)

- This spiritual war we are in, it is about **God and our SOUL** ...and God has already WON ...**THANK YOU JESUS!**

<sup>28</sup> *Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “Sovereign LORD, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes.”* <sup>29</sup> *Then Samson put his hands on the two center pillars that held up the temple. Pushing against them with both hands,* <sup>30</sup> *he prayed, “Let me die with the Philistines.” And the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.* Judges 16:28–30 (NLT)

## Explore Community Church

We meet at 251 Palomar Street, Suite A • Chula Vista, CA 91911  
www.explorecommunitychurch.com • info@explorecommunity.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 122017 • Chula Vista, CA 91912 • 619.500.5220