

# SAMSON DIES AGAIN

*The State of Our Current Celebrity Culture*

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**Focus** God wants to restore our nation to Himself. This change will begin in our homes and in the Church.

**Open** What is a good movie that you have seen recently?

**Read** Samson was one of the judges of Israel who was anointed to be a deliverer of his people. Although God glorified himself in Samson's death, Samson strayed from the path and impact God intended for him. (Judges 16:23-31)

The same pattern can be seen in our current celebrity culture, specifically in the life and recent death of singer and actress Whitney Houston. As the Church, we are called to influence our culture, and we have the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of Samson and current celebrities.

The first problem is that Samson was not truly disciplined. His parents were permissive and did not hold him accountable to how Nazirites were required to live. (See Judges 13 and 14.) This lack of discipling produced a weakness of character that prevented Samson from having the influence on his people that God intended. We can learn from Samson that we must disciple our family if we want to reach our nation.

Samson broke his covenant with God when he allowed his wife Delilah to cut his hair. (Judges 16) When his hair was cut, he lost his strength. Then the Philistines bound him, blinded him, and took him into captivity. This is a picture of what sin does in a believer's life. The good news is that we can repent. When we turn back to God and admit our sin, His grace helps us break free from sin.

Samson sinned against his own gift in that he did not develop his gift. God has given each of us gifts that equip us to accomplish the assignment He

has for us. When we develop those gifts, we help others to see the reality of God in our lives, and it brings glory to God.

If the Church is to bring change to our nation, we must live differently than Samson and our culture. We must win people to Jesus and make disciples. We must be ready to embrace the responsibility, authority and open doors that God will give us in influencing our nation. (Revelation 3:7-9)

**Talk**

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What does it mean to “make disciples”? How do we live that out in our daily lives?
2. Part of discipleship involves growing and remaining free from the bondage of sin in our lives. What has the Holy Spirit taught you about resisting the temptation to sin? (See Luke 22:46, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Ephesians 6:17)
3. Discipleship also includes becoming all of who God created us to be, for His glory. What gifts do you have that you would like to develop more fully? (For further study, read Matthew 25:14-30.)
4. Do you have a friend or family member who is on their way to becoming a disciple? What is one thing you can do to express the love of Christ to them this week?

**Live**

Spend some time thanking God for the talents He has given you. List out those talents and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about which one(s) He wants you to focus on developing in this season of your life. Ask God to give you opportunities to use that gift.

**Pray**

Thank God for calling you to be His disciple. Praise Him for breaking the power of sin through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Ask the Lord to help you develop your gifts for His glory. Also pray for your family members or friends who don’t know God.