

SAMSON

FAMILY DEVOS



Breaking the Vow

Scripture: Judges 14:1-9

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:20

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

For My Family

Do you remember the vow that Samson’s family made to God? He was going to be a Nazirite, a person devoted to things of the Lord, and he was going to show that by following three fairly easy instructions: 1) Don’t eat or drink anything made from grapes, 2) Don’t cut your hair, and 3) don’t touch anything dead. Sounds simple enough, right? After all, Samson had been given good parents who would teach him these things from an early age, and Samson would grow up to be Israel’s righteous Judge! Sadly, just because we have parents who want to follow the Lord doesn’t mean that we will.

In the first half of Judges 14, we see that Samson didn’t seem to care about any of his Nazirite vows (except maybe the one about his hair). In these 9 verses, we see that Samson was hanging out in a grape vineyard, which doesn’t break any of his promises, but if you can’t eat them and you can’t drink them, why are you even there? Then in verses 8-9 we see that not only did Samson go and touch a disgusting, rotting, dead animal’s body, but he even scooped out the honey from inside it and ate it! Then he even gave some to his parents without telling them where it came from. And we haven’t even mentioned that he wanted to take a wife from the Philistines, something that God had already forbidden in His Word.

Even though Samson had been given such an incredible gift in his parents and his upbringing, he chose the things of earth over the things of God. He was willing to break his promise to God over some stinky, gross, dead lion honey, and as we will see through the rest of Samson’s story, he was willing to do much more than that.

God may have given you great parents or grandparents who love Jesus and have taught you about Him from an early age. You may have gone to Sunday School all your life. You might even go to a Christian school and have Bible studies in your classes. You are definitely sitting with someone right now doing devotions. You might have had all of these things poured into your life, but you still need to make a choice. Are you going to take hold of all the things that God has put in front of you, or are you going to trade those things in for temporary treasures that will fade away? You should praise the Lord for those people in your life that love Jesus and teach you about Him, but Samson’s life teaches us that we need to follow Jesus for ourselves.

Questions for Young Children:

What were some of the rules Samson was supposed to keep as part of his Nazarite vow?

How did Samson break his Nazirite vow in this passage?

Do you think Samson cared more about what he wanted or what God wanted?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

In this passage, what things did Samson show us were more important to him than God?

Why do you think Samson concealed the source of the honey from his parents?

What other way did Samson disrespect his parents in this passage?