

What Is Your Way?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Mark 10:51-52, "And Jesus answered and said unto him, *What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.*" Free to go his way, he choose to follow Jesus. What is your way?

I think of the ten lepers who were cleansed. Nine went their way and we don't hear of them again, but one returned to Jesus. He returned to give praise to the Lord for his healing. In the scriptures there are many who are found in the temple, or following after Jesus. Some, like the nine lepers, take the blessing and go their way. They seem to feel that they received what they wanted and had no more need for the Lord. We see some like that today, they may come

to church, make a profession of faith, be baptized and then they disappear. They went their way and some of them won't seem to think of the Lord until they have another problem.

Some people want the blessings of God, but not his leading of their lives. Refusing to submit to God they live as they wish until there is a problem, then they think, at least for awhile, of the Lord. If a person knows the Word of God then he will know that that is a very dangerous attitude to have. In **Galatians 6:7** we read, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." To seek the blessings of God, but not God, is a path that will lead to tragedy.

Those in the gospels who were blessed and then followed Jesus in the way made a great choice. They chose to walk in the light of God's Word. The Lord had healed them and they were truly thankful and showed it by the life they lived from then on. It is not enough to say thanks and then to go our separate ways. If someone is really thankful it will be seen in

the life that he lives.

If we are willing to take a honest look at ourselves, we can see that the way we walked before we came to Jesus was the wrong way. It was a path that led to death and separation from God. A person may say, "I didn't do any bad sins," and they may be right, but just to be without the Lord is to be lost. If we follow the Lord we will be living according to the commands of God. Jesus said that he always did that which pleased the father, do we at least try to do this? It should be our goal in life to be a faithful follower of the Lord.

The two choices are our way or his way. It goes without saying, if we go our own way, we certainly are not going his way. **Isaiah 55:7-8**, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

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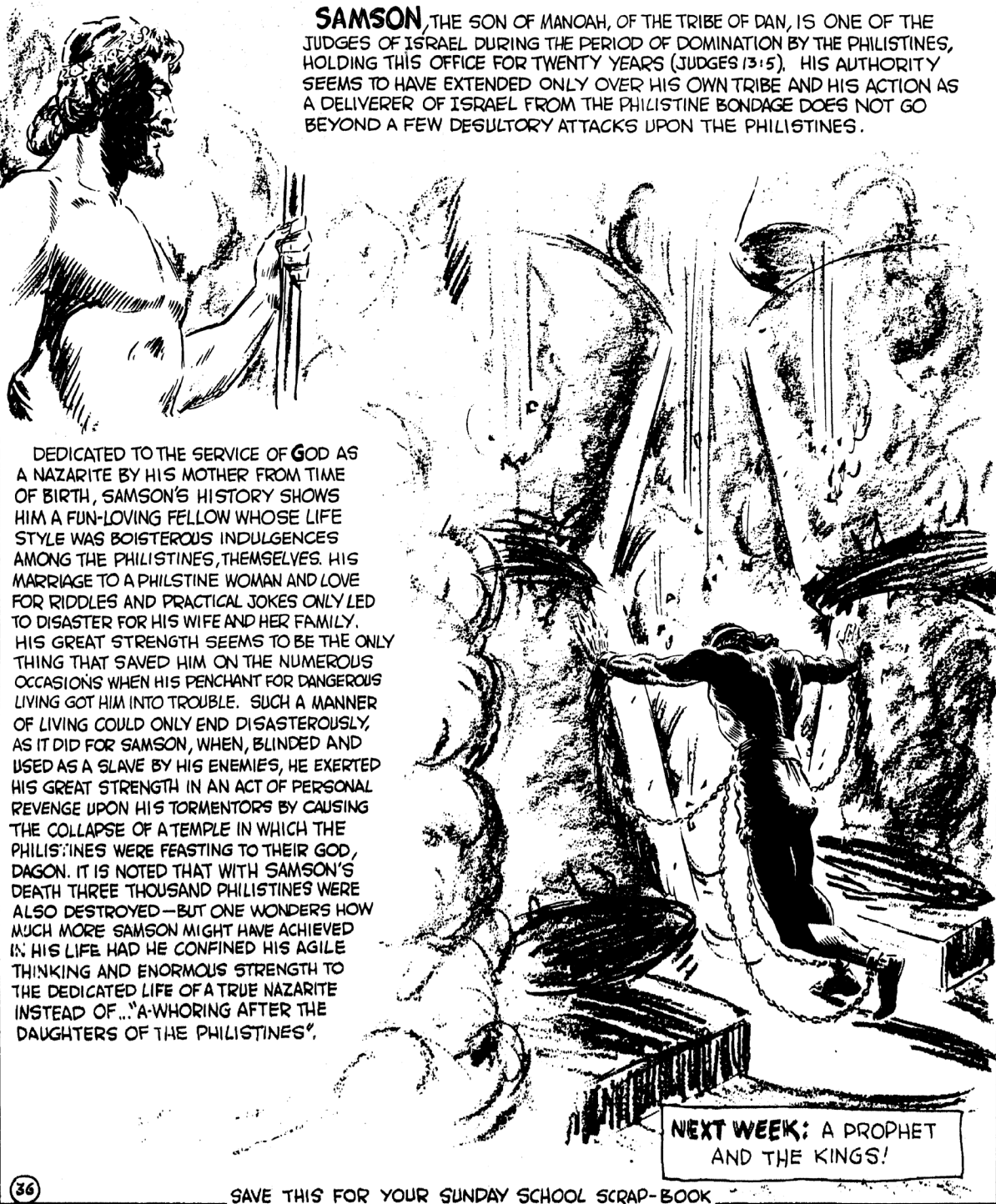
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SAMSON, THE SON OF MANOAH, OF THE TRIBE OF DAN, IS ONE OF THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF DOMINATION BY THE PHILISTINES, HOLDING THIS OFFICE FOR TWENTY YEARS (JUDGES 13:5). HIS AUTHORITY SEEMS TO HAVE EXTENDED ONLY OVER HIS OWN TRIBE AND HIS ACTION AS A DELIVERER OF ISRAEL FROM THE PHILISTINE BONDAGE DOES NOT GO BEYOND A FEW DESULTORY ATTACKS UPON THE PHILISTINES.



DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF GOD AS A NAZARITE BY HIS MOTHER FROM TIME OF BIRTH, SAMSON'S HISTORY SHOWS HIM A FUN-LOVING FELLOW WHOSE LIFE STYLE WAS BOISTEROUS INDULGENCES AMONG THE PHILISTINES, THEMSELVES. HIS MARRIAGE TO A PHILISTINE WOMAN AND LOVE FOR RIDDLES AND PRACTICAL JOKES ONLY LED TO DISASTER FOR HIS WIFE AND HER FAMILY. HIS GREAT STRENGTH SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY THING THAT SAVED HIM ON THE NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WHEN HIS PENCHANT FOR DANGEROUS LIVING GOT HIM INTO TROUBLE. SUCH A MANNER OF LIVING COULD ONLY END DISASTEROUSLY, AS IT DID FOR SAMSON, WHEN, BLINDED AND USED AS A SLAVE BY HIS ENEMIES, HE EXERTED HIS GREAT STRENGTH IN AN ACT OF PERSONAL REVENGE UPON HIS TORMENTORS BY CAUSING THE COLLAPSE OF A TEMPLE IN WHICH THE PHILISTINES WERE FEASTING TO THEIR GOD, DAGON. IT IS NOTED THAT WITH SAMSON'S DEATH THREE THOUSAND PHILISTINES WERE ALSO DESTROYED—BUT ONE WONDERS HOW MUCH MORE SAMSON MIGHT HAVE ACHIEVED IN HIS LIFE HAD HE CONFINED HIS AGILE THINKING AND ENORMOUS STRENGTH TO THE DEDICATED LIFE OF A TRUE NAZARITE INSTEAD OF... "A-WHORING AFTER THE DAUGHTERS OF THE PHILISTINES".

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