



This week at Magdalen Road Church we reached Samson (13-16). We noted that right the way through his account there is ambiguity. Samson represents Gods people in that they are to be distinctive but, like him, they are not.

With followed four themes through the chapters:

- **Sight**

Samson is driven by his eyes - in 14v3 he wants to marry because she is right 'in his eyes' even if marrying her was against God's Law (cf 17v6 and 21v25). Indeed it is only when his eyes are removed that Samson displays his role as sacrificial rescuer .

- **Strength**

His strength comes from the Lord through both his Nazarite vow (cf Numbers 6) but also God equipping him at times. He does not necessarily though use his strength for good.

- **Sin**

Right through the text Samsons actions are ambiguous, in that he lives in a way that sits at odds with what he ought to know of God.

4. Sovereignty

Samson forgot God, but God didn't forget Samson. The paradox of God sovereignty has never been far from the surface for these chapters - all the way back from 13v4. Even and despite Samson's mess (and ambiguity) God is in control and at work.

Samson points is to a greater rescuer who always follows the word of God and in love, is willing to give up his life for his people. His obedience is never ambiguous.

Here are some questions to help your group get going...

- What do you make of Samson being led by sight? How are we often led by sight rather than by faith? Why?
- Samson uses the strength that God gives him, but not always for good. How can we be better at stewarding the gifts that God gives us in the right way?
- How do we see God sovereignly at work through these chapters? How can it help us to trust him? In what current situations do you find it hard to trust?
- How does Samson point us to Jesus?