Pastor Dave Teixeira
August 9, 2009

Samson vs Delilah

Judges 13-16

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Samson was gifted with strength. One of the most difficult things to do is to talk about your own gifts. It actually takes a lot of humility and poise to honestly assess and share about where you believe you shine. Maybe it's a fear of coming off as arrogant, or perhaps even some false humility, but most of the time people don't like answering the kind of question I'm about to ask. Please answer anyway!

- Share what you believe some of your gifts are. How do you see those gifts being used and recognized in your life?
- What are the up sides of your gifts? How do they play out in a positive way in your life and relationships?
- What are the down sides of your gifts? How do they work against you, or what are some things you must be careful of as you use your gifts?
- What are some gifts you wish you had, but don't? If you have trouble with this one, think of a person you may have looked up to or even envied. What gifts do they have that you don't?

Now, for CHARACTER...

- Make a list of positive character qualities? (See Gal. 5:22-23 for help)
- Choose two character qualities from your list that you live out the best. Give examples of why you believe you exhibit these qualities well.
- Choose two character qualities from your list that you need the most work on. Why do you think you struggle in these areas?

In the story of Samson and Delilah, Samson ultimately gets to a place where "he did not know that the LORD had left him." But the hard reality is that Samson did not arrive at this place overnight. Samson's move away from God had been a slow drift that happened over time as he became more focused on himself and the things of this world.

- How about you? Are you currently drifting toward or away from God?
- If you are drifting away, what is it that is pulling you downstream? Think long and hard about what specifically is causing you to move toward a place that will eventually lead you to separation from God. Ask God to help you take immediate steps to get back on track.