

February 5, 2012

“Comfort For Believers”

Judges 15:10-19 (main text verses 18-19)

**10** The men of Judah asked the Philistines, "Why are you attacking us?"

The Philistines replied, "We've come to capture Samson. We've come to pay him back for what he did to us."

**11** So 3,000 men of Judah went down to get Samson at the cave in the rock of Etam. They said to Samson, "Don't you realize the Philistines rule over us? What are you doing to us?"

But Samson replied, "I only did to them what they did to me."

**12** But the men of Judah told him, "We have come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines."

"All right," Samson said. "But promise that you won't kill me yourselves."

**13** "We will only tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines," they replied. "We won't kill you." So they tied him up with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

**14** As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. But the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists. **15** Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it. **16** Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, I've piled them in heaps!  
With the jawbone of a donkey,  
I've killed a thousand men!"

**17** When he finished his boasting, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was named Jawbone Hill. (*Ramath Lehi*)

**18** Samson was now very thirsty, and he cried out to the LORD, "You have accomplished this great victory by the strength of your servant. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of these pagans?" **19** So God caused water to gush out of a hollow in the ground at Lehi, and Samson was revived as he drank. Then he named that place (*En Hak-ko-re*) "The Spring of the One Who Cried Out," and it is still in Lehi to this day.

Samson is an interesting character. He had a strong body but a weak mind, he was a sinner and a saint. Hebrews 11 (v32) lists him as a man of faith, his strength and victories were because of his faith in the Lord and his salvation was by faith. In our text Samson first boasts about what *he* did, yet with simple faith he trusts God for water to quench his thirst. Come to think of it, in many ways he is like us.

The purpose of this message is to bring comfort to you who are believers. To those who have faith in God yet are unhappy or distressed, I want to bring comfort by talking about what God has already done for you.

### **1. You have already experienced great deliverances.**

None of you have been attacked by enemy forces and rose victorious, clubbing 1000 of them to death with a jawbone of a donkey (a child once wrote that Samson slew the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles), and piling them up in a heap. But you have had a heap of **sins** piled up in your life, terrible sins, all categories of sins that would certainly warrant spending eternity in hell. But none of those sins, not one, will accuse us ...

Romans 8:33-34

Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Think of the number of sins you have committed through the years, think of the severity of some of those actions, think of the utter selfishness, even wickedness of some of those actions...Jesus died for each one. They are “piled in heaps” every one destroyed.

Who dares accuse us? Satan is our accuser, and his charges are true, because we have sinned and even after being saved, we still will sin. Yes, he *can* accuse us, but the charges won't stick. God has chosen us for his own, declared us “not guilty,” and has given us right standing with Himself. When Satan accuses us, Jesus, our Advocate comes to our defense. We will not be condemned because Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us. He sits in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

This is our comfort, this is our confidence Jesus gave His life for us, by faith we have God's redeeming grace, and we have eternal life. Believers are delivered from sin. We even have power over sin, power to say no to sin. Sin is no longer our master, we have been delivered by Jesus our Master, our Lord.

We have also been delivered from many a **temptation**. You have been tempted by Satan and the world, and even by friends and others close to you. Temptations to pride,

despair, doubt, selfishness, greed, the ways of the flesh, too much of the world, or too little compassion for the world, tempted to laziness, or puffed up by our many works. Hiding in every shadow, around every corner, the fiery arrows of the evil one are hurled at us. Sometimes we have failed and gave into temptation, but God always gives us a means of escape and many times we have held up the shield of faith to stop those fiery arrows.

1 Corinthians 10:13

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

And, while we are still tempted and always will be, there are certain temptations that we have had in the past that are no longer a temptation for us. Think about that, look back at temptations you once struggled with, where are they now? God has delivered you from certain temptations.

Think of times you did give into temptation; think about the **fears and doubts**, the condemnation or the weight of conviction and guilt that you were under. You thought God would never forgive you, for you had asked to be forgiven of the same sin 1000's of times before and swore you would not do it again, and were heartbroken when you did do it again. Remember feeling the guilt of that? But today you are here to worship and praise God, the fear is gone, you rejoice in Christ. You were delivered from fear.

Psalms 103:10

He does not punish us for all our sins; He does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

Now, think of the many **troubles**, problems, afflictions, hurts, sorrows, you have faced in the past in your life as a believer, that in Christ you have been delivered from.

Psalms 34:19

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the LORD comes to the rescue each time.

Notice that it says, "The Lord comes to the rescue *each* time. Whatever the sorrow, His mercy will come in a way suitable to meet it. He is our shield, He is our sword, He is our rod and staff, He is our shelter, He is our rest.

Sin, temptation, fears, doubts, sorrows, God has delivered us from all these things.

## **2. Yet, there will be new troubles in need of deliverance**

Samson, after fighting the Philistines, was thirsty; a new trouble for him. He was not just a little thirsty; he was very thirsty, even afraid he might die from his thirst. Even this strong man, who could wipe out a 1000 with a donkey jaw bone, was at his weakest when he was thirsty. Quenching thirst may seem like a simple thing compared to facing the threat of the Philistines and all God had brought him through, but with all his strength, there was nothing he could do to find water.

Some of you may have been forgiven, saved, delivered, yet are thirsty and feeling sad today. It is not unusual for God's people to at times be thirsty. It is not unusual for God's people who have had great deliverance, to have some little trouble be too much for them. It is not unusual for God's people to often feel the weakest right after experiencing a great triumph. Perhaps it is a reminder of our own weakness. There will always be new troubles, some only heaven will change. The mighty Samson, who has just had a great victory falls on knees and in simple faith cries out to the Lord for water.

If you are feeling the sadness of a present trouble pressing in on you that takes away the joy and motivation to rejoice in your past deliverances, fall on your knees and in simple faith cry out to the Lord for water. I want you to know...

### **3. You are still secure in Christ**

No matter what trouble, heartache, difficult circumstance, problems, trial, temptations ... it is well with your soul. Heaven is sure. God loves you and no one can pluck you from His hand.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

We know this; just as God has brought you out of great troubles of the past, He will

certainly bring you out of this present trouble, especially if it is little compared to past needs. He will do it for two reasons, both found in our text.

First is because, if He does not deliver you, your enemy will rejoice over you. As when Samson...(v18) cried out to the LORD, "You have accomplished this great victory by the strength of your servant. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of these pagans?"

God does not want you to fall into the hands of your enemy. The Father will not forsake you. Never! Never! Never! NEVER! In faith cry out to God, He is your shelter and help. Your enemy will not rejoice over you, we share in the glory that is to be revealed and our God will keep you until that day.

The second reason for our confidence is the fact that God has already delivered you. Again I ask you to look back over the battlefield of your life at the heaps of defeated sins, fears, cares, temptations, and troubles. Do you think having done all this for you in the past He will leave you now? God who has graciously rescued you before has not changed, He is still the same.

(v19) So God caused water to gush out of a hollow in the ground at Lehi, and Samson was revived as he drank. Then he named that place "The Spring of the One Who Cried Out," and it is still in Lehi to this day.

I owe so much to Christ, more than any of you, at least that's how I feel. When I look back, when I think of where the Lord has brought me, and has done for me; I can only give thanks and praise to my Lord. Every one of you could claim the same thing, can think of a particular case and could sing with me ...

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace, now like a fetter  
Bind my yielded heart to Thee.  
Let me know Thee in Thy fullness;  
Guide me by Thy mighty hand  
Till, transformed, in Thine own image,  
In Thy presence I shall stand.