**CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES for Sunday, July 1, 2018**

**SAMSON**

**Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself**

Judges 13-17

Samson is an example of how to wreck your life.

Samson was an incredibly strong man with an incredibly weak will.

He had incredible potential but incredible weaknesses too.

Judges were military and/or civil leaders over the nation of Israel during the 340 years before their first King Saul.

**Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for   
forty years.**

Judges 13:1

APOSTASY

**7 Cycles**

**in the Book of Judges**

DELIVERANCE

OPPRESSION

REPENTANCE

Nazirite Vows - Numbers 6:1-6

• no drinking alcohol or wine, no eating grapes etc.

• no touching dead bodies,

• no cutting of their hair

Most Nazirite Vows are personally made and for a short period of time. But Samson’s was divinely ordered from birth and for life.

Three attitudes make this strong man weak:

**LUST** *“I want it!”*

**ENTITLEMENT** *“I deserve it!”*

**PRIDE** *“I can handle it!”*

**Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, “I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.”**

Judges 14:1-2

**Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.**

Judges 14:7

**Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion’s carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion’s carcass.**

Judges 14:8-9

**And there Samson held a feast, as was customary for young men.**

Judges 14:10

Christians have a higher calling than the pursuit of happiness.

Our calling is the pursuit of holiness.

It’s all about trust.

Am I going to trust God and his way

or

am I going to trust me and my way?

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
    and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
    and he will make your paths straight.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

