Lesson 9 Handout: Set Apart Before Birth, Compromised in Desire

Judges 13-14

Key verse: “for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb” (Judges 13:5b, KJV).

Objective: God sovereignly prepares a deliverer but does not approve Samson’s compromise.

Outline

1. God begins rescue before Israel’s cry is recorded (13:1-5).
2. Samson is a Nazarite, marked by _____ to God.
3. _____ is not a license for compromise.
4. Manoah seeks instruction and the angel confirms God’s word.
5. The Angel of the LORD discussion calls for reverent _____.
6. The Spirit begins to move Samson: God rules over the story by His _____.
7. Samson chooses a Philistine woman because she pleases him (14:1-4).
8. God’s _____ works through human acts without approving sin.
9. The lion, honey, and riddle show a pattern of secrecy and compromise.
10. Spiritual _____ is not the same as holy character.
11. _____ often begins as a private exception to God’s call.
12. Samson points by contrast to the faithful Deliverer.
13. _____ does the Father’s will and saves His people.

Questions and Notes

1. What instructions are explicitly given concerning Samson before his birth?
2. What should the phrase “it was of the LORD” in Judges 14:4 not be taken to mean?
3. Why should we be careful not to state as fact that Samson violated a specific Nazarite rule in Judges 14?
4. What gift, role, or success could tempt you to ignore a character issue?

Notes:

Further Study

Read Numbers 6:1-21; Genesis 50:20; Judges 13:24-25; Matthew 1:18-25; John 10:17-18; Hebrews 4:15.