

# Honey from the Carcass

## *Sermon Outline – Church of the Crossroads*

### **1. God Still Speaks to His People**

Scripture: Judges 4:4–7 (NIV)

Deborah shows that leadership in God's kingdom begins with hearing the voice of God. Before we learn about her marriage or position, we learn that she is a prophet who speaks for the Lord.

- 1 Deborah was introduced as a prophet.
- 2 She spoke what the Lord commanded.
- 3 Her authority came from hearing God.

Faith cannot be borrowed. Every believer must learn to hear the voice of God personally.

### **2. We Are Often Drawn to Power Instead of Faithfulness**

Deborah represents wisdom, obedience, and steady leadership. Samson represents power without discipline.

Human nature often admires charisma and strength more than faithfulness and obedience.

### **3. God Calls People Before They Realize It**

Scripture: Judges 13:5

Samson was set apart before he was born. The Nazirite vow represented a life dedicated to God.

- 1 No wine or grapes.
- 2 No contact with dead bodies.
- 3 No cutting of hair.

God sometimes places a calling on our lives long before we fully understand it.

### **4. Great Power Comes With Great Restriction**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:27

Spiritual discipline is not punishment; it is preparation. Paul wrote about disciplining his body so he would not be disqualified.

The disciplines of faith protect and empower the calling God places on a life.

### **5. Compromise Always Begins With Small Steps**

Samson walked through a vineyard, moving closer to breaking his Nazirite vow. His fall did not begin with Delilah; it began with small compromises.

Spiritual drift usually begins quietly, with choices that seem small in the moment.

## **6. Never Confuse God's Anointing With God's Approval**

The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon Samson even while he was drifting toward compromise.

God sometimes works through imperfect people because He loves the people they are serving.

God's power operating through us should never be mistaken as approval of our behavior.

## **7. People Often Try to Find Sweetness in Dead Things**

Samson found honey inside the carcass of the lion (Judges 14:8–9). He ate it and even shared it with others.

This moment becomes a picture of his life: finding sweetness in something defiled.

Many people try to find satisfaction in things that were never meant to give life.

## **8. Dormant Desires Are Not Defeated Desires**

Samson led Israel for twenty years, but the desires that once trapped him were never truly defeated.

Old wounds and temptations can remain beneath the surface if they are never surrendered to God.

## **9. Sin Slowly Dulls Our Awareness of God**

Scripture: Judges 16:20

Samson believed he could escape again as he had before, but he did not know the Lord had left him.

Spiritual compromise often produces a slow drift that dulls our awareness of God's presence.

## **10. Samson Is Not Our Savior — He Is Our Mirror**

Samson's story reveals how easily human strength fails. It ultimately points to a better Deliverer: Jesus.

- 1 Samson was announced by angels — Jesus was announced by angels.
- 2 Samson was betrayed — Jesus was betrayed.
- 3 Samson stretched out his arms and died destroying enemies — Jesus stretched out His arms and died saving enemies.

We do not need to become the savior of our story. We need the Savior.