

## new hair

THE BIG IDEA: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. - Judges 16:22 (NCV)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_

2. The \_\_\_\_\_

3. The \_\_\_\_\_

### The Take-Off

Today, I want to talk to you about hair loss.

Believe it or not, you lose 50-100 of these suckers a day, and if you can't generate enough to replace them, you've got hair loss.

You're not alone. Americans spend 3.5 billion a year to try and combat the problem, and nothing can put a hat on a head quicker than "a bad hair day."

Face it, we like our hair, and when something goes wrong with it, we freak.

we don't know what to do, so we do one of three things.

1) We ignore it, which can lead to really bad comb-overs.

2) We attack it, which can lead to a really nice bald look for some and a bad bald look for others.

3) We cover it, which can lead to really nice hair restoration for some and really bad rugs for others.

Hair grows. A lot. Up to 6 inches a year, actually. Perhaps we shouldn't be as worried about hair loss as much as hair gain. The advancing hair line may be more troublesome than the retreating one.

And what if hair grew that fast under your arms? On your back? Sometimes, hair could be a problem, but not in our passage today.

Hair, for the most famous judge in Israel's history, was a sign of strength. Today, we're going to take a look at Samson's hair, his hair loss, and ultimately his hair restoration.

We've got a lot of Scripture to cover, so to make it easy, let's break it into 3 parts: The Good, The Bad, and The Glory

#### 1. The Good

In a small town on the Philistine border - Zorah - lived a woman never named in the Bible.

All we know about her is that she was "Manoah's wife" and she was infertile (13:2)

On top of her personal drama, she's part of a bigger drama: her people - the Israelites - are slaves to the Philistines (13:1)

So, in the bleak situation of a barren, forgotten, captive woman, the promise of a son who would be powerful and would defeat the Philistines was good.

All she had to do was lay off the bacon and beer (13:4) and make sure his hair was never cut (13:5).

She also had to convince her husband that she wasn't crazy. A tall task for a forgotten woman, and he wasn't buying the crazy she was selling. (13:6-7)

He asked God to send the angel back. (13:8)

Funny thing is, the angel came back and told Manoah the same thing he's told Manoah's wife!

I can just see her standing beside her husband, arms folded, rolling her eyes at Manoah as the angel verifies her story!

Before we move on, make sure you get this: Samson's hair was a good thing. It was a sign of his separation to God.

#### 2. The Bad

Like many young men, if we could have stopped Samson's story here, it would have all been good.

Of course, we can't and so there is bad.

Judges 14 marks the beginning of Samson's hair loss, but it all started with 2 areas chock full of bad:

a. He was a bad Nazarite

i. Remember the 3 rules? No wine, no cuts, no corpses.

ii. He touched a dead body (14:8-9)

iii. More than likely, he drank. (14:10 he threw a "feast" - Hebrew word literally means "drinking party")

b. He was a bad deliverer

- i. Like “Hancock” Samson used his power for his good in his time
- ii. He was more concerned with his needs and wants than the needs of others
  - (a) He fell in love with a Philistine woman (14:1-3)
  - (b) It wasn’t against the law to marry a Philistine (see Deut. 7:1-3), but it wasn’t smart, esp. since the purpose of his life was to destroy them!
  - (c) He made up a riddle expecting that no one would get it so he could have what he wanted (14:17) (Then he called her a cow! v. 18)
  - (d) He slept with a prostitute (16:1)
- iii. He picked fights with the Philistines based on his loss, not his people’s captivity
  - (a) 15:4-5 - to get back at his wife and father-in-law
  - (b) 15:8 - to avenge his wife and father-in-law
  - (c) 15:11 - the motive behind all he had done
  - (d) 15:16 - it was his fight (“I killed a thousand men!”)
  - (e) 15:18 - It was his thirst (“Do I have to die of thirst now?”)
- c. He got a bad haircut
  - i. He toyed with his power (16:4-19)
    - (a) Two tests involving ropes
    - (b) One dealing with his hair and then finally the secret is out
    - (c) His hair is cut, and his strength is gone
  - ii. He threw his calling away (16:20-21)
    - (a) he lost his awareness (16:20)
    - (b) he lost his sight (16:21)
    - (c) he lost his freedom (16:21)

Before we go any further, let’s take stock of what we know and how it applies to us:

Samson had a unique calling. So do we. (Ephesians 2:10)

Samson had been set apart. So have we. (1 Peter 2:9)

Samson had to choose to live set apart. So do we. (1 Peter 3:15)

Samson found himself captive because of his own efforts. So can we. (Galatians 3:1-5)

We can find ourselves like Samson: blind, captive, far removed from the destiny God has for us.

Thankfully, that is not the end of the story! The glory is still to come...

### 3. The Glory!

Perhaps the greatest display of grace in all the Bible is found in 16:22

Despite the failings of a bad deliverer and the inability to keep his vows; despite the carelessness with which Samson threw away his calling, the grace-filled words remain: “But his hair began to grow again.”

God is in the hair restoration business!

But there are some important points that must be made:

a. He was still a prisoner (v. 25)

b. He was still blind (v. 26)

I wish I could tell you otherwise.

I wish I could say that Samson repented, grew more hair, got released from prison, had his sight restored and found a hot, godly woman.

At the risk of really making someone mad, but because I want you to so desperately understand the point I believe God is making here, I going to say a name, and it’s going to make you squirm.

The fairy-tale ending that I just described is the way Joel Osteen would have written it, but it's not the way God wrote it.

God does restore us, but restoration isn't a rewind button that allows you to try again and re-write your circumstance.

Let's turn to one more Scripture, read it, apply it, and then land this plane with some hope and grace.

Galatians 6:7 - "Don't be misled--you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant." (NLT)

What does that really mean? It means that if you live for your desires - even if you love Jesus - you will reap destruction (see v. 8), and just because you repent, it doesn't negate this truth.

You mock God and you pay the consequences, just like Samson.

So, where does that leave us, and how in the world does that offer hope?

### The Landing

- New hair means that God restores us to the place where we are with Him again
- New hair means that God restores us to the place where we can fulfill our destiny
- New hair means that we will be vessels that bring Him glory at any cost
- God sees you. He sees the mess you've made of your life. He sees the careless what you have handled your destiny, making it about your glory and not His.
- He has every right to leave you there, and yet He didn't.
- His answer to your hair loss?
- "But his hair began to grow again."
- You are one prayer away from embracing the good works that you were created for.
- You are one prayer away from doing more with the rest of your days than you have with the previous ones.
- Samson, for the first time, called out to God and asked Him to give him strength.
- He didn't assume. He didn't play. He submitted his life to the highest call - bringing glory to the God who restored him.
- And when the dust settled, v. 30 says that he killed more Philistines in his death than all of his life.
- John 12:24. Live for your glory and remain a seed. Lay your life down for His glory and become a harvest.
- Today is the end of bad comb-overs and bad toupees. Today is the day for new hair.