



## GLENN'S WEEKLY RECAP

**Talk date:** 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018

**Preacher:** Glenn Walsh

**Passage:** Judges 16:20-30

Starting in April this year our teaching series, *'Grafted into A Legacy of Faith'*, was launched from Hebrews 11 and has gone through the hall of faith mentioned in this chapter. From that list we have journeyed with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Gideon. We are currently in the book of Judges. Christian and Jewish tradition credits Samuel as Judges author, although with a great deal of uncertainty. Judges covers the time period of 1300-1100 BC, a period of 200 years. The book covers the period of settling into the Promised Land until the time of Israel's first king, Judges 17:6 *In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

The overriding patterns in Judges are: Forsaking the Lord, God's judgment, Repentance and God's deliverance.

There are 12 judges in all starting with Othniel (Caleb's nephew), Ehud (a political assassin) Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah (a prophet, who triumphed over the Philistines with the Barak mentioned in Hebrews 11), Gideon (a farmer and reluctant hero JD 3 weeks ago), Tola, Jair, Jephthah in Judges 11 (who makes a rash vow and is also mentioned in Hebrews 11,) Ibzan, Elon and Abdon then finally Samson whose story starts in Judges 13 with his miraculous birth. Last Sunday we looked at Judges 16:20-30

In verse 20 we read one of the saddest sentences in the whole of scripture, *He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free". But he did not know that the LORD had left him.*

Samson did not know that the LORD had left him! Outwardly the first and only all-time super hero. Outwardly a Nazarite - anointed by the Holy Spirit - but inwardly selfish he ignored the disastrous consequences of sin, both in his own life and its effect on his country. Even later in verse 28 when Samson pleads with God once again to return his strength his motives are only about revenge, *"and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes"*. His motives still ring out with self-centredness - verse 30 Samson cries out *"Let me die with the Philistines!"*. Samson both lived and died with and like the Philistines. Many ask the question will Samson be in heaven? If he is justified by faith then certainly, if he is under the law then probably not - but I am pretty certain he didn't get the *"well done my good and faithful servant"* that we as Christians should be living for.

In Love Glenn