

SERMON
OUTLINE

GOD’S CALLING AND
MAN’S SELF-INDULGENCE

JUDGES 15:1-20;16:1-31 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Samson was called and empowered by God, but he chose to live for himself. Though set apart as a Nazirite, his decisions were driven by personal desire rather than devotion. His story reveals a life marked not by holiness but by indulgence and reactionary strength.

Chapter 15 showed us that Samson was consumed by vengeance. He destroyed the Philistine crops by setting foxes ablaze, retaliated for his wife’s death with deadly violence, and struck down a thousand men using a donkey’s jawbone. He boasted in his power. Yet after exhausting himself, he cried out—and God graciously refreshed him with water from a hollow place. Samson judged Israel for twenty years, but there was no mention of worship, repentance, or spiritual depth (Judges 15:1-20).

The descent deepened in chapter 16. Samson visited a prostitute in Gaza and narrowly escaped death. His next entanglement was with Delilah. Despite her obvious manipulation, he lingered—drawn by attraction and blinded by pride. After three deceptions, he disclosed the truth of his Nazirite vow. When his hair was cut, the LORD departed from him. He lost his strength, not because of the haircut alone, but because he had forfeited his consecration (Judges 16:1-21).

Blinded and imprisoned, Samson reached his lowest point. But in that brokenness, he turned to God. In the Philistine temple, he prayed—not in pride, but in dependence. God heard him. With one final act, Samson brought down the pillars, killing more in death than in life. His end was

sobering—not a triumph, but a moment of surrender through which God fulfilled His purpose (Judges 16:22-31).

God’s purposes are not thwarted by man’s failures, but His calling demands faithful stewardship. Samson’s strength was a gift, not a guarantee. His story reminds us that unchecked passions can derail a divine mission—but repentance still leads to renewal.

Sermon Focus: Samson’s life warns us to guard our calling with discipline and resist the lure of self-indulgence. Though he was called by God, his love for pleasure continually disrupted his mission. Still, in brokenness, he found renewal. May we live not by the cravings of the flesh, but by the calling of the Lord.✳

FAMILY MATTERS,
PRAYER COUNTS

TEACHER KAREN MONROY

As we wrap up Family Month, we are to be reminded of one simple but powerful truth: family matters, and prayer truly counts.

Over the past few years, we have intentionally blessed our children yearly during our Family Month celebrations. This is a beautiful and important practice. However, the blessing is not for children alone. We are also called to bless our parents, siblings, spouses, in short, we bless our entire family through prayer. Prayer counts, and we must cultivate a growing burden and desire to intentionally lift every member of our family before God in prayer.

So, whether you are living with your parents, raising children, navigating marriage, single life, or part of a blended family, your prayers for them matter. Our families might not all look the same, each one is equally important in the eyes of God, and each one needs to be covered in prayer.

The family is the basic unit of society. It is where values are formed, identity is nurtured, and faith is passed on. Long before discipleship happens in churches or schools, it begins at home. It begins with conversations, habits, and most importantly, prayer.

Prayer is how we fight for our families. It is how we show that we love them deeply, and it acknowledges that God is the center of our homes. When we pray, we ask God to guide our parents, protect our children, strengthen our

marriages, heal broken relationships, and nurture our walk with Him. Whether your family feels whole or broken, prayer causes us to surrender everything to God and trust the One who knows and cares for our families.

Each family goes through different seasons, so our prayers may differ and change—but one thing must never change: we should never stop praying for our families. For the single person, pray for your parents, siblings, or future family. For those in parenting years, pray for wisdom and strength. For our beloved seasoned citizens, pray for your children’s children. Whatever season you are in, you are called to pray for your family.

Closing Challenge
As Family Month ends, let us intentionally and continuously pray for our families. Set a reminder, start a journal, gather weekly—do whatever it takes. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer. Remember: discipleship starts at home, and prayer is vital in discipleship.

So pray today, pray tomorrow, pray every day. Lift up your family to God—because family matters, and prayer counts.

From Family Month to Missions Month
“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?” - Romans 10:14-15

PARSON
TO PERSON

This October, we invite you to celebrate Missions Month with us—a time to be inspired, equipped, and sent out for the sake of the Gospel!

The Engaging Ministry has lined up exciting and impactful events for all ages:

- Sent Out: The Amazing Missions Race** (Oct. 1-26)
Experience the joy of sharing Christ in your daily life through this fun and meaningful challenge!
Registration: Sept. 29-Oct. 5 | Race Period: Oct. 1-26
- Week of Prayer** (Sept. 29-Oct. 4)
Join us nightly for online devotions (7:00-8:00 PM) and don’t miss our onsite Prayer Gathering on Oct. 4 at 6:30 AM.
- Business as Missions Conference** (Oct. 17-18)
For business owners and professionals: *“Chosen for God’s Purpose: Built to Last.”*
- Men’s Breakfast** (Oct. 18 | 7:00-9:30 AM)
A meaningful fellowship with the theme *“My All for My Call: The Gospel in Today’s Most Persecuted Countries,”* featuring a special message from Open Doors Philippines.
- Missions Conference** (Oct. 25)
Join us at GCF South Metro as we gather to be inspired and mobilized to carry Christ into the world.

For more details and registration, visit our Missions booth at the 1/F lobby.✳

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