

## ***THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for May 2:***

Here are some key application points out of today's readings.

### *Judges 15:1-16:31:*

When people are not following God and they do not have godly leadership over them (including the reality they are not under king Jesus), things get very chaotic. Their foolishness eventually permeates every aspect of their life. This is definitely true of Samson who, though at times the Spirit of God worked through him and he was used of God, nevertheless, he was very foolish and unrighteous in most of what he did. Consider some of the ways this is true and how his example challenges where you are at with the Lord: (1) Samson got involved with an unbelieving woman, as well as lacked control over his anger—both of which led to the death of the wife and her father, as well as eventual conflict between Judah and Philistia (15:1-20). It is true that God, in His gracious providence, used Samson to judge the ungodly Philistines and to benefit Israel, nevertheless, Samson was indicative of a people who were supposed to be trusting in and serving God, yet were out-of-control. (2) Samson gets involved with a Philistine prostitute and then eventually falls in love with a third Philistine woman, Delilah (16:1-22). Samson was not all that concerned about doing the will of God and it cost him dearly. Through seduction and coaxing by Delilah, Samson eventually shared that the one aspect of his Nazirite vow he had not broken yet was cutting his hair. Once she cut it off, God departed and Samson's strength left him. So, Samson, was captured, blinded, and made a slave. Though God was gracious to Samson and Israel in that He enabled Samson to kill a number of Philistines in his death (16:23-31), it is clear that Samson could have been so much more than what he was. He is a testimony to Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." May we learn from his and Israel's bad example!

### *John 2:1-25:*

Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana (about 8.5 miles north of Nazareth) where the party ran out of wine and Jesus performed His first miracle (the first of seven signs John records). This miracle not only leads to strengthened belief in Him and displayed His glory, it also put on display the rich and abundant way the Lord can speak into existence provision, meet needs, and do a new thing. What Jesus is bringing about (the New Covenant) is far superior to what had preceded Him (Old Covenant). Do we trust Jesus for whatever needs we have? He can provide in abundant ways!

Understand that Jesus did not come merely to be meek and lowly. He also came to confront falsehood and to deal with men's evil hearts. This is seen in His display of zeal for His father as He cleared the Temple courtyard of those abusing it (13-17) and in His interaction with the Jews in which His response shows that the greatest sign pointing to His identity will be His resurrection (18-22).

In verses 23-25 we are reminded that not everyone who professes to trust in Jesus truly does. Have you truly trusted in Him as Savior? Do you know of someone for whom you need to pray because they may have a false assurance of salvation?

*Psalm 103:1-22:*

This psalm praises God for His amazing provision and work—especially from the perspective of Israel and her history. Read through this psalm and use all the descriptions of God’s work and His attributes as motivations for praising Him.

*Proverbs 14:17-19:*

The need to control our anger, the importance of pursuing wisdom from God’s Word, and the benefits of pursuing a righteous life are the points of application we glean from these three verses.