LESSONS FROM A FALLEN HERO
Part 3: Samson: The Power Of Connection

CONNECTIONS: AN IMPORTANT LIFE LINK

❖ Samson recap
  ✦ Supernatural birth and a start full of purpose and promise
  ✦ Empowered by the Holy Spirit and uniquely gifted but his values were way off

❖ Connection: the state of being connected
  ✦ Joined together, linked, plugged in, being joined in close association
  ✦ Vital to our digital world
  ✦ We still have a need for face to face actual human connections
  ✦ Our greatest spiritual need is to be connected to God (Ephesians 2:12-13 NLT)

SAMSON UNPLUGGED

❖ Samson’s weakened state (Judges 16:20-22 NIV)
  ✦ Disconnected from God he lost his power source
  ✦ Wound up in a worse condition - no freedom, no vision, no future

❖ But his hair began to grow again
  ✦ A reminder of better times
  ✦ Must have given him a spark of hope - that he could connect with God again

❖ Connected and empowered (Judges 16:26-30 NIV)
  ✦ Samson must have rekindled the belief that God could still do big things - through him
  ✦ Positioned himself for God to move - between the pillars
  ✦ Prayed and pushed - asked God for help then did his part by pushing

LESSONS ON CONNECTEDNESS

❖ Lesson #1: Being disconnected from God is your weakest place
  ✦ Subject to bondage, blindness (no vision) and boredom (no meaningful purpose)

❖ Lesson #2: God’s mercy is bigger than your mess up
  ✦ Your “hair” can grow again - you can get back to a good place with God (Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV)
  ✦ A strong connection strategy (James 4:8 NLT)

❖ Lesson #3: Once connected you are good to go
  ✦ Believe that God can still do big things - with and through you (James 2:17 NIV)