

The Prison of _____
Judges 13-16

Chastening (_____) for the believer is a topic not often appreciated or desired to be reminded of, yet God chastening his children is a _____ of life for the believer.

Proverbs 3:11-12 *Do not despise the Lord's instruction, my son, and do not loathe his discipline;¹² for the Lord disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.*

Hebrews 12:5-13

To _____ the chastening of the Lord is to do oneself an injustice: Proverb 15:32 *Anyone who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever listens to correction acquires good sense.*

Samson was a man for whom God had great _____: A Nazarite whom God desired to be a Judge and deliverer of Israel in a much-needed day for holy living. (13:1-5) With Samson's birth came great potential and opportunity to _____ God and bring relief to Israel. Unfortunately, he never _____ the potential God had in store for him. Even though the Spirit of God was upon him, Samson failed to _____ in the Holy Spirit's leading and power but chose his own way instead. Because of his choices, Samson found himself in the _____ of God's chastening and purification.

- I. The road to _____
- A. A road that did not _____ to be traveled
 - B. A road of _____
 - 1. The Nazarite vow (Numbers 6:1-21)
 - a. Never _____ their hair
 - b. Never drink _____ drink
 - c. Never touch a _____ body, human or animal
 - d. All this was to be _____ and for the time stated by the person making the vow
 - e. The _____ behind the Nazarite vow was so that a person could give themselves completely to God for the time of the vow
 - f. God had made this choice for Samson since He wanted Samson to be fully dedicated to His service and _____
 - 2. Samson's acts that _____ the vow
 - a. Married a woman _____ the nation of Israel
 - b. Touched the carcass of the lion he had _____ earlier because he wanted some of the honey in the carcass **14:8-9**
 - c. _____ the cutting off of his hair **16:1-20**
 - C. A road of _____ **16:21**
- II. The road to _____ **16:22-30** (Oh the _____ of forgiveness and restoration!)
- A. Sometimes we have to "let _____ take its course" **Vs 22**
 - B. God used the sin of the sinner to bring about his _____ **Vs 23-25**
 - C. Samson, wishing to revenge his tormentors, _____ for direction from the enemy
Vs 26-27
 - D. Samson _____ realized his need of God and prayed **Vs 28**
 - E.
 - 1. This is the _____ record of Samson communing with God, even though a Nazarite
 - 2. In spite of that, God in mercy, _____ his only recorded prayer
 - 3. God never shames us, he reclaims us as His children
 - F. Samson finally _____ his call from God **Vs 29-30**

III. The road to _____ **16:31**

What a _____ account of one who had such great potential and power of God on him. The prison of purification will more than likely be a _____ experience but is meant to make the believer more like Christ. However, it is not a prison the believer _____ to be placed in if we will remain obedient to our Savior/Master.