

OUT OF THE EATER CAME FORTH MEAT JUDGES 14

Text: Judges 14:14

(Judges 14:14) "And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle."

Introduction:

We have in this riddle what we shall see to be God dealing with us in all of life. This amazing story takes place during the period of the Judges. It was a time when military captains ruled over God's people, or delivering God's people from their captors.

Samson was one of these people. Samson was a Nazarite. We find in Numbers the things concerning a Nazarite.

(Numbers 6:1-8) "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, {2} Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD: {3} He shall separate

himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. {4} All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk. {5} All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. {6} All the days that he separateth himself unto the LORD he shall come at no dead body. {7} He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head. {8} All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD."

Now what about this riddle? He said, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. I want us to look at this today.

1. THE ROAR OF THE LION (SATAN).

A. On their journey down there was a time of separation from his parents and it at this time that this lion came upon him.

1. Young lion means that he was in his prime.

2. He rent it apart, or ripped it to pieces.

B. Samson I believe looked like an ordinary man with the exception of his hair.

C. But God chose to use him in a miraculous way, and because God chose to use him the Devil want to destroy him.

D. The same is true today. There is a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour.

1. He is after you and me and this church as well as anyone who wants to do right and serve the Lord.

E. He left the carcass and after returning he found bees and honey.

This leads us to the second thing the Riddle

2. THE RIDDLE OF SAMSON

(Judges 14:12-14) "And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: {13} But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle,

that we may hear it. {14} And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle."

What does this mean to me and you.

A. Over and over again the Devil tries to wreck us, homes, families, he's an eater.

B. But if you keep your eyes on the Lord you'll find that the worst thing that could happen to you will turn out to be something to bring nourishment to you.

C. Examples

1. Joseph (Gen 45:4-5)

(Genesis 45:4-5) "And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. {5} Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life."

2. Little maid (2 Kings 5:1-3)

(2 Kings 5:1-3) "Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and

honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. {2} And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. {3} And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy."

3. Paul (Phil 1:8-12)

(Philippians 1:8-12) "For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. {9} And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; {10} That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; {11} Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. {12} But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;"

4. Calvary

- a. Satan thought that he had destroyed Him, but on the third day He came out of the ground.

And Out Of The Eater Came Forth Meat.

D. If you think that you can go through life without heartache your wrong. There's an eater out there who would love to destroy you.

E. God will never use a man whose heart has not been broken, and you'll find out that out of the eater comes forth meat.

3. THE REWARD OF THE STRUGGLE

(Judges 14:14) "And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle."

A. This sweetness reminds me of Jesus.

B. I know a lot of people could used by God if they just had a little sweetness about them.

C. Many times we think of the wickedness of people, and we sometimes think that they are some sort of a second class person, but may I remind you that God greatly used Samson, who did many deplorable things, and the greatest of his deeds occurred after he was broken.

Illustration:

He is now blind from having his eyes poked out grinding at the mill. Be mocked and made fun of, the laughing stock of the Philistines. Lead like a helpless beast to the arena, then calling on the name of God, and God declaring in His holy Word that he did more at his death than he did in his life, and then finding his name in the hall of faith in Hebrews.

(Hebrews 11:32-34) "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: {33} Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, {34} Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens."

Close:

Sweetness. I find myself saying some of the same things that I said 10 years ago, but the tone of my voice has changed. I find myself trying to get people to do the same things that I did ten years ago but I'm willing to be a little more patient about getting from point A to point B. You know why? I have been a lot of struggles with a lot of lions, and realize they have been as well.

You say God can't use me because of what I have been through. The truth is if you go through it with your eyes of Jesus that could be the reason God uses you.

I'm not trying to sell you on sinning; I'm trying to convince you on forgiving and new beginnings.

We have a tender hearted Saviour who says

(Matthew 11:28-30) "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. {30} For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

We have a wonderful Saviour who has given us so much and so much to do.

Samson as he went by that carcass of that eater grabbed a handful of sweetness or honey.

If we reach in where we have been wounded and Christ has healed us if we reach in where we been hurt and God brought us through it, if we reach in where all of that was we bring out some sweetness.

Out of the strong comes forth sweetness.

If you want honey to hold in your hand to give to a world that needs it, then you're going to have to go

through some hurt and heartache and find out the Christ is all sufficient; and when you do you'll find that you couldn't do it alone, and you'll discover out of the strong came forth sweetness. That's our reward.

We say Jesus take me and use me, but are we willing to get to the place that He can really use us?

For out of the eater will come forth meat, and out of the strong will come forth sweetness.