**R859 (R77) Rumination for July 11, 2021**

The **T**heme: **Samson’s last hours**

The **T**ext: ***S****amson called unto the LORD... “****S****trengthen me; I pray thee, only this once”* Jud. 16:28

The **T**hots:

Intro.: **C**ompare and **C**ontrast the Last Hours of Samson with the Last Hours of Jesus.

1. **The Person**
2. Samson: He was given to deliver Israel out of **S**lavery. Jud. 13:5b

 *For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son…he shall…deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*

1. Jesus: He was given to **S**ave **S**inners from their **S**ins. Matt. 1:21

 S*he shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.*

1. **The Posture**
2. Samson: His hands were outstretched to the left and right. Jud. 16:29

*Samson took hold of the two middle pillars…of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.*

1. Jesus: His hands were outstretched, being crucified on the cross. Lk. 23:33

 *There they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

1. **The Prayer**
2. Samson: He prayed to God to enable him to avenge his enemies. Jud. 16:28

 *O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.*

1. Jesus: He prayed to God to forgive His enemies. Lk. 23:34

 *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*

 *When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.* Rom. 5:10

1. **The Petition**
2. Samson: He petitioned God twice, to be with him, and to strengthen him for this once. Jud. 16:28

*Samson … said,* ***O****…* ***GOD****, remember me, I pray thee, … I pray thee, only this once,* ***O God****…*

1. Jesus: He addressed God twice, and asked why for once God was forsaking Him. Matt. 27:46

*Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, …* ***My God****,* ***My God****, why hast Thou forsaken Me?*

1. **The Parting**
2. Samson: He bowed down and **C**ommitted **S**uicide by pulling the temple down with him Jud. 16:30

*He bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and… all the people … therein.*

1. Jesus: He bowed His head and **C**ommitted His **S**pirit back to His Father.

*Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.* Jn. 19:30, NIV

*Jesus called out … "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit."* Lk. 23:46, NIV

1. **The Product:**
2. Samson: The end result of his life was more deaths.

 *So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.* Jud. 16:30

1. Jesus: The end result of His death was more dead sinners brought to life. Jn. 12:24

 *I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.*

 *But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

**Conclusion:**

* Samson called upon God to Remember Him, and God did:

 *And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD,* ***remember me.***

* The thief on the cross, called on Jesus to Remember him, and Jesus did.

 *He said unto Jesus, Lord,* ***remember me*** *when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.*

* Jesus calls upon His Church to remember Him, **do we?**

 *Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this* ***do in remembrance of Me****.* I Cor. 11:24

 *This cup is the new testament in My blood: this* ***do ye…in remembrance of Me****.* I Cor. 11:25

*Thy body, broken for my sake, My bread from heaven shall be;*

*The cup of blessing I will take, And thus remember Thee.*

*Remember Thee, and all Thy pains. And all Thy love to me;*

*Yea, while a breath – a pulse remains Will I remember Thee.*

Montgomery

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 859**

1. In Jerusalem, come “Easter” time, we can witness many professing, and even pious but misled, pilgrims seeking to put into practice the words of Christ literally as we read from the following Scriptures:

Matthew 10:38 - *he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.*

And so, they take up a physical wooden cross, carry it all the way up the trail that Jesus trod in Jerusalem, endeavouring to copy, perhaps, what Simon of old was compelled to do, even to carry the cross of Christ literally up to where He would be crucified – thus,

Matthew 27:32 – *And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.*

Others, in their native countries outside and away from Jerusalem, would attempt to depict similar scenes. They would carry the cross through the streets lined by “Christian” and even non-Christian followers to demonstrate their readiness to carry the cross of Christ as they believe to be what the Lord Himself had commanded them to do physically and literally. Some would go even to the extent of being “crucified”, literally nailed to the cross to hang on it for a few hours as was done to the Lord, thus, seeking to follow the footsteps of the Lord Himself. Thus, copying what Christ seemingly had called His disciples to do:

1 Peter 2:21 – *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps…*

They also probably believe that that was what Paul himself did when he confessed to the church at Galatia *– I am crucified with Christ.* (Gal. 2:20)

But they in all probability missed out what Paul said following that, that is …

*nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in Me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I* *live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*

Certainly, Christ and Paul could not have been referring to an annual affair of depicting the crucifixion scene literally on the streets but rather to our dying to our rights spiritually and morally daily [Paul also said, *I die daily,* I Cor. 15:31] and allowing Him to take over our lives, as He did with Paul, to *live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*

Or as Paul told the Christians in Rome in

Romans 6:6 – *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Romans 6:8-13 – *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

*Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, he liveth unto God.*

*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

Do you die daily to allow the Lord to live in you to lead and guide you? **REFLECT**

1. Paul also wrote: Philippians 1:20 (KJV)
*According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed,*

*but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

Is this your expectation and ambition in life? What are you expected to do? **REFLECT**.

**Points to Ponder:** *To Die to* ***S****elf is to Live for the* ***S****aviour.*