

Spoiled Children

- Veruca Salt – Charlie and Chocolate Factory
- Slides
- Children who are given everything, and told they are perfect.

Judges 14:1–9 (NRSV)

14 Once Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw a Philistine woman. ² Then he came up, and told his father and mother, “I saw a Philistine woman at Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.” ³ But his father and mother said to him, “Is there not a woman among your kin, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, because she pleases me.” ⁴ His father and mother did not know that this was from the LORD; for he was seeking a pretext to act against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

God has blessed Samson

Samson’s might was not his own.

It was God’s and he squandered it.

God has blessed Samson but his earthly desires overpower heavenly

Nike Ad - 1984

Today we are encouraged to live life in this way. We are persuaded by commercials to “**just do it,**” that if we like something to go for it.

Ads are directed to our senses—appearance is everything. If you don’t have the right stuff, you’re nothing.

Faulty Compass Led to Ships' Misorientation

In **1914**, not long after the sinking of the Titanic, Congress convened a hearing to discern what happened in another nautical tragedy. In January of that year, in thick fog off the Virginia coast, the steamship **Monroe** was rammed by the merchant vessel **Nantucket** and eventually sank. Forty-one sailors lost their lives in the frigid winter waters of the Atlantic. While it was Osmyn Berry, captain of the Nantucket who was arraigned on charges, in the course of the trial **Captain Edward Johnson** was grilled on the stand for over five hours. During cross-examination it was learned, as the New York Times reported, that Captain Johnson "navigated the Monroe with a steering compass that deviated as much as two degrees from the standard magnetic compass. He said the instrument was sufficiently true to run the ship, and that it was the custom of masters in the coastwise trade to use such compasses. His steering compass had never been adjusted in the one year he was master of the Monroe."

Source: James K. A. Smith,

You Are What You Love (Brazos Press, 2016), page 20

⁵ Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah. When he came to the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion roared at him. ⁶ The spirit of the LORD rushed on him, and he tore the lion apart barehanded as one might tear apart a kid. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. ⁷ Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she pleased Samson. ⁸ After a while he returned to marry her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. ⁹ He scraped it out into his hands, and went on, eating as he went.

When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the carcass of the lion.

Motivated by self-interest. What is morally right in Samson's life is determined by Samson himself, not by God or his law.

Samson is driven by the sensual: his instincts, his lusts, his appetites, his gratifications.

He manifests a total disregard for human or divine authority. He shows no regard for God's law, for his special Nazirite status. Even Samson's first prayer is motivated by self-interest and personal gratification.

Our gifts are meant to benefit more than just ourselves.

Fire Chief Evacuated Neighbors While Her Home Was Destroyed

When **Christiana Plews** left her home one fateful night, she had an ominous feeling she couldn't shake. As she was leaving, she told her husband, "I think my worst nightmare is about to come true." Plews is the Upper McKenzie Fire & Rescue Chief, and she'd been called to help fight fires about 30 miles away. But she knew the area was very, very dry, and she knew the weather forecast called for high winds--a recipe for wildfires.

"Be safe," her husband told her. She could've said the very same to him; about five hours later, she ordered the evacuation of several surrounding towns, including her own. When she couldn't reach her husband on his phone, she called one of her sons, instructing him to leave. "Get in your car and get out of there." The fire that she'd left to

fight hours earlier was way out of control, and was, in her words, "ripping down the valley."

Plews and the other firefighters in her unit are all volunteers; while they battled the flames the best they could, all of their homes burned down. In the aftermath of the flames, many community members have rallied around the chief, helping to provide essential clothes, food, and supplies to replace what she's lost.

Included among her admirers is actress Drew Barrymore, who gave her a check for \$10,000. When Barrymore asked her how she remained so strong and steadfast, Plews had a ready response: "Somebody has to do it. Somebody has to lead and somebody has to help get the healing and rebuilding process started ... I just have to do it for everyone else and hopefully we can all find our way."

Maxine Bernstein, "Upper McKenzie fire chief loses her two homes in Vida as she battled wildfires with her volunteer crew"

1. Every gift we have is a gift from God.
2. We find our way in life, when we use a good compass.
3. Our gifts are meant to benefit more than just ourselves.