

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM MARCH 9, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Judges 16:20-21

“She said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.”

Let's face it, from what we have read in Judges, we might not expect to see Gideon, Samson, or Jephthah in heaven, but the writer to the Hebrews tells us that they will be there. These

men are listed among those who are included in the hall of faith, and faith pleases God. I am inclined to read Hebrews 11 in such a way as to conclude that it was Samson who, by faith, “gained strength in weakness.” Never was Samson weaker than he was as he stood between the two supporting columns of that Philistine “temple of doom” in Gaza. Here is the time when Samson really gained strength in his weakness.

I fear that Samson's power along with divine intervention only caused Samson to feel invincible, so that he became more and more reckless. Samson actually began to believe that no matter where he went or what he did no Philistine could do him any harm. Thus, rather than return to Israelite territory and hide from the Philistines, Samson boldly remained in the land of the Philistines, in plain sight, almost daring them to try to do him harm. Samson's arrogance was about to get him into deep trouble.

And Samson's silence about where his strength comes from is a far cry from that of David when he confronted another Philistine (Goliath). Why shouldn't the Philistines know that they are fighting against the Lord when they oppress God's people? Why shouldn't they be given the opportunity to recognize how weak and powerless their god, Dagon, is? Samson's silence is not golden, it is sinful and self-serving. Because Samson has chosen to remain silent about His relationship to God and the source of his power, Delilah sets out to loosen his lips. Through her persistent efforts, she evokes four different “confessions” from Samson, all in the name of proving his love for her.

What a tragic picture Samson was. The power and the presence of God departed from him, and he didn't even know it. I fear that Samson was not only a picture of the person who turned away from walking with the Lord, but that his example may also be a prophecy for a church today that relies on the world's means and mechanisms, rather than upon God's Spirit. How easy it is for Christians to follow the fads of the secular rather than to rely on the power of God's Spirit. We are weak in the power of the flesh. That is why He gave us His Spirit, dwelling within us and His church. Do not presume to think the successes God achieves in and through us by means of His Spirit are somehow our works, for which we can take the credit. If we do, there may very well come a time when the Spirit has departed from us, and we don't even know it.



Sunrise Community Church

Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst

EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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MARCH 2014						
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March 2014

The Cost of Discipleship

Australian missionary deported from North Korea after detention for 13 days

John Short, 75, interrogated for four hours a day and kept under 24-hour guard.

WWW.THEGUARDIAN.COM • WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG

An Australian missionary detained for 13 days in North Korea for trying to spread Christianity has said that he was interrogated for four hours a day and kept under 24-hour guard. North Korea deported John Short, 75, on March 3, saying he had apologised for anti-state religious acts and asked forgiveness.

Short said that recounting biblical scriptures helped him endure the "long and gruelling investigation". "There were two-hour sessions each morning, which were repeated in the afternoons," he added.

Short, an enthusiastic walker, said his confinement in a room in Pyongyang under constant guard was stressful. "This I found to be most painful physically as an active senior person," he said. "I missed my freedom to walk very much."

Short was detained on Feb. 18 as he prepared to leave his Pyongyang hotel for the airport. He said he admitted his crime: distributing Bible tracts in order to convert North Koreans. "I strongly protested that I was not a spy, nor working with any South Korean organizations nor was I hostile to the DPRK," he wrote, referring to North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He said he was told that he faced 15 years in prison for distributing religious pamphlets at a Buddhist temple and on a train. "I confessed that I had knowingly broken the law in what I believed is my God-directed duty and as I do in every place and country I visit," Short said. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said North Korea decided to expel him in part because of his age.

North Korea's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but in practice only officially sanctioned services are tolerated by the government. Defectors from the country have said that distributing Bibles or holding secret prayer services can mean banishment to a labour camp or execution.

Short – who is originally from Barmera, South Australia, but has lived in Hong Kong since 1964 – has been arrested several times for evangelizing in mainland China, according to a biography on a Christian Web site, Gospel Attract.

According to his written apology issued by KCNA, Short said he also visited North Korea in August 2012 to distribute Bible tracts.

March 9	8:45 a.m.	Bringing Down the House	Judges 16
	10:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
March 11	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians;	at Kikkert's home
March 14	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship	
March 16	8:45 a.m.	Doing What is Right In Your Own Eyes	Judges 17-18
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
March 17		St. Patrick's Day	
March 18	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians;	at Kikkert's home
March 21	7:00 p.m.	Game Night	
March 23	8:45 a.m.	Israel's Sodom & Gomorrah	Judges 19-21
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
March 25	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians;	at Kikkert's home
March 28	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship	

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

Battle Hymn Of The Republic

Text: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/b/a/t/bathymn.htm>

Music: http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/j/o/h/john_browns_body.mid

"He will thunder from His holy dwelling and roar mightily against His land. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, shout against all who live on earth."

Jeremiah 25:30

Words: Julia W. Howe, 1861, alt. This hymn was born during the American civil war, when Howe and her husband visited a Union Army camp on the Potomac River near Washington, DC, in December 1861. She heard the soldiers singing the song John Brown's Body, and was taken with the strong marching beat. She wrote the words the next day.

The hymn appeared in the Atlantic Monthly in February 1862. It was sung at the funerals of British statesman Winston Churchill, American senator Robert Kennedy, and American presidents Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon.

Music: John Brown's Body, John William Steff

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;

His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps

They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;

I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;

His day is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His day is marching on.

I have read a fiery Gospel writ in burnished rows of steel;

"As ye deal with My contempters, so with you My grace shall deal";

Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His heel,

Since God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Since God is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;

He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;

Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;

Our God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,

With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:

As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free;

While God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! While God is marching on.

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,

He is wisdom to the mighty, He is honor to the brave;

So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of wrong His slave,

Our God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Our God is marching on.



Julia W. Howe (1819-1910)

I awoke in the grey of the morning, and as I lay waiting for dawn, the long lines of the desired poem began to entwine themselves in my mind, and I said to myself, "I must get up and write these verses, lest I fall asleep and forget them!" So I sprang out of bed and in the dimness found an old stump of a pen, which I remembered using the day before. I scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper.