

**February 26, 2017**

**Series: Despicable Me?**

**Sermon Title: *The Best Part is to Come - Samson***

**Key Verse:**

**Judges 16:26 (NIV)**

**<sup>26</sup>Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.”**

**The Key:**

**It ain't over till its over.**

**SET apart**

**Judges 13:5-7 (NIV) <sup>5</sup>You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.” <sup>6</sup>Then the woman went to her husband and told him, “A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn’t ask him where he came from, and he didn’t tell me his name. <sup>7</sup>But he said to me, ‘You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.’”**

**FALL apart**

**Judges 16:17-21 (NIV) <sup>17</sup>So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.” <sup>18</sup>When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. <sup>19</sup>After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. <sup>20</sup>Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him. <sup>21</sup>Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.**

The Mission of Clearbranch UMC is  
to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,  
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and  
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

The most **IMPORTANT** part

**Judges 16:22-30 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup>But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. <sup>23</sup>Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.” <sup>24</sup>When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, “Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain.” <sup>25</sup>While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, <sup>26</sup>Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” <sup>27</sup>Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. <sup>28</sup>Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” <sup>29</sup>Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, <sup>30</sup>Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

### Challenge Questions:

To what is your life dedicated?

What is your "grinding grain in the prison" moment?

Where is the new growth in your life?

What holds your future hope?

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The Vision of Clearbranch UMC is Transformed Lives offering the Transforming Love of Christ.