

Even now, it's not too late to look to God.

*Samson's last stand*

- The judge became a joke – 16:23-25 *Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand." 24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us." 25 And when their hearts were merry, they said, "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars.*
  - The Philistines rejoice in their idols without realizing God's involvement.
- Even at this low point, it's not over yet – 16:26-27 *And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them." 27 Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained.*
- Samson finally cries out to God – 16:28-31 *Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes." 29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other.*

*<sup>30</sup> And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life. <sup>31</sup> Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.*

### Action points

- Currently, what are my top two vulnerabilities?
  - Samson: Anger + Lust
  - Are you aware of the areas of weakness or tendencies to compromise in your life?
  
- What is the scope of my decision-making process?
  - What factors do I consider? Is it only how it affects me or do I take the family, church, team, or overall organization into account?
  
- Does this decision diminish or maximize my potential to make a difference for Jesus Christ?