



CALVARY CHAPEL

Cycle of Superficial Living

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[Song of Solomon 2:15](#) Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.

*[Judges 15:1-3](#) Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, "I'm going to my wife's room." But her father would not let him go in. **2** "I was so sure you hated her," he said, "that I gave her to your companion. Isn't her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead." **3** Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them."*

[Proverbs 31:30](#) (AMP) Charm and grace are deceptive, and [superficial] beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD [reverently worshiping, obeying, serving, and trusting Him with awe-filled respect], she shall be praised.

- **Fight compromise:** Make sure the people you have let in your life have Christ in theirs.

*[Judges 15:4-6](#) So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, **5** lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves. **6** When the Philistines asked, "Who did this?" they were told, "Samson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because his wife was given to his companion." So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death.*

[Judges 14:15](#) On the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife, "Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to steal our property?"

- Today, we must decide which cost of living we are willing to pay.
- Choose to follow Jesus or choose not to.

[Proverbs 2:7](#) He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

*[Judges 15:7-11](#) Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I swear that I won't stop until I get my revenge on you." **8** He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam. **9** The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. **10** The people of Judah asked, "Why have you come to fight us?" "We have come to take Samson prisoner," they answered, "to do to him as he did to us." **11** Then*

three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?" He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me."

- **Stand down:** We should not take revenge because we should expect God to.

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Judges 1:1-2 After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the Lord, "Who of us is to go up first to fight against the Canaanites?" 2 The Lord answered, "Judah shall go up; I have given the land into their hands."

Judges 15:12-14 They said to him, "We've come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines." Samson said, "Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves." 13 "Agreed," they answered. "We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. 14 As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.

- **BREAK THE CYCLE:** Protect your faith by eliminating comfortability with compromise.

Judges 15:14-20 ... The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. 15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. 16 Then Samson said, "With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men." 17 When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was called Ramath Lehi. 18 Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the Lord, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" 19 Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, (fount of the crier) and it is still there in Lehi. 20 Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

- **BREAK THE CYCLE**

- Protect your walk by using your gifts for God.
- Protect your relationship with God by bringing your weakness to Him.
- Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.